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Police probe college bullying case

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Myanmar quake wake-up call for Malaysia

Unless country strengthens resilience of its buildings and infrastructure, tremors closer to home could be devastating: Expert

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The government has been urged to adopt the European standard for designing earthquake-resistant structures and retrofit existing buildings with base isolators and energy-damping systems. —AMIRUL SYAFIQ/THESUN

No megaphone diplomacy: Anwar

Prime minister says Malaysia will instead deploy officials to Washington for dialogue on tariff imposed by United States.

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Malaysia to pursue quiet diplomacy on US tariffs

➤ Anwar outlines calm, strategic response while strengthening Asean ties and trade resilience

■ BY AZURA ABAS
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PETALING JAYA: Malaysia will not engage in megaphone diplomacy over the US tariff whiplash, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday.

Instead, Malaysia would pursue its trademark quiet diplomacy by deploying officials to Washington to initiate a dialogue.

"There may be limited room to revisit the underlying intent, but there is still scope to fine-tune the policy's implementation," Anwar said at the Asean Investment Conference.

Finance Minister II Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan later confirmed that the Malaysian delegation is expected to depart for Washington by the end of April.

Anwar added that, as always, Malaysia would adapt.

"Winds may shift, but we do not drift. Our trade diversification strategy is already gathering momentum.

"While we intend to remain a steadfast trading partner with the US, we will, in parallel, take all necessary steps to protect our economic interests.

"This includes engaging proactively with the US to achieve a mutually beneficial outcome, while broadening and deepening our ties with major trade partners across the EU, Asia, the Middle East and Africa."

Anwar noted that Malaysia's trade with the US has long been mutually advantageous.

"Our exports support not only growth at home, but also high-quality jobs across the US."

Reports indicate the US has slapped a steep 24% retaliatory tariff on Malaysian imports.

US President Donald Trump recently unveiled sweeping tariffs on all trading partners, a move widely seen as unprecedented in modern trade policy.

Among the worst hit are China, with a 34% tariff, the EU at 20%, Vietnam 46%, Sri Lanka and Myanmar both at 44%, Cambodia at 49%, and Laos at 48%.

Anwar also reaffirmed his belief in Asean's enduring resilience.

He said for about six decades the bloc has weathered wars, crises and coups.



Anwar visiting a booth at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre yesterday. —BERNAMAPIC

"In times such as these, there's a temptation to retreat into nostalgia or fatalism, to believe the global order is beyond repair or that regional cooperation is too slow to matter.

"Yet Asean has continued to inch forward, often frustratingly so, but forward nonetheless."

As tariff battles rage, Anwar warned of a fracturing global order, adding that Asean must increasingly rely on itself.

"This means strengthening intra-Asean trade. We must move beyond rhetoric to real execution.

"While tariff liberalisation within the region is largely complete, regulatory alignment, cross-border logistics and digital connectivity remain unfinished business."

He noted the importance of external partnerships.

"Our dialogue and sectoral partners span six continents — few regional blocs can match that reach.

"As chair this year, Malaysia will focus on revitalising strategic platforms such as Asean Plus Three to bolster economic resilience."

He said this week's Asean Finance Track will spotlight regional cooperation citing the expansion of digital payment connectivity.

"Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand are already linked. Later today, we'll launch the extension to Cambodia, with the goal of covering all Asean nations.

"This will boost trade and tourism within the region."

He urged deeper integration to help businesses tap Asean's full potential and proposed nurturing regional champions in sectors such as finance, energy, healthcare, tourism, telecommunications and logistics.

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"Our dialogue and sectoral partners span six continents — few regional blocs can match that reach.

"The Trump tariffs aren't the first threat to multilateralism and they won't be the last.

"But if Asean stays open, pragmatic and cohesive, we may remain among the few who still believe the world works better when it works together."

Anwar outlined Malaysia's vision for Asean, namely a prosperous, sustainable and inclusive region backed by political will, capital, resilience and sub-regional progress.

He cited the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone as a meaningful step, not a silver bullet, showing how cross-border cooperation can deliver tangible gains.

Malaysia is also investing in its border regions with Thailand, Sabah, Sarawak and Kalimantan to spur shared prosperity.

"Resilience also means infrastructure that can weather both literal and financial storms."

He added that on green growth it is now a strategic economic imperative.

"Carbon capture, circular production and low-emission innovation aren't fringe, they're the future."

Turning to the digital economy, Anwar warned of growing inequality.

"Asean's digital transformation is real but uneven. Without corrective investment, AI may widen the divide."

He also highlighted the challenge for small businesses meeting global sustainability standards, prompting Malaysia to launch the Asean Simplified ESG Disclosure Guide for SMEs.

"In the end, it's these grounded, tangible efforts that will determine whether Asean's vision becomes reality or fades into a historical footnote."

"It does not have to be formal like a master's or PhD. Any exposure or specialised training, particularly in emerging technologies, is valuable," he added.

Touching on the recent implementation of the SSPA, Anwar credited its success to the spirit of teamwork and collective commitment to national reform.

"It reflects an ambition to bring change. We must accept that the country cannot reach its full potential if we continue using outdated methods.

"If we are serious about strengthening our national capacity, we have to acknowledge that old approaches are no longer sustainable," he said.

The SSPA, which came into effect on Dec 1, 2024, replaces the Malaysian Remuneration System. —Bernama

AGC to review Finas Act amendments this week

KUALA LUMPUR: The draft amendment to the Perbadanan Kemajuan Filem Nasional Malaysia Act 1981 (Act 244) is in its final stage of preparation and is expected to be submitted to the Attorney-General's Chambers for review this week.

National Film Development Corporation Malaysia (Finas) chief executive officer Datuk Azmir Saifuddin Mutalib said the proposed changes aim to ensure the Act remains relevant in light of current technological advancements and evolving content production trends.

He said the amendments also seek to accommodate new business models, especially those involving online transactions and content distribution via streaming platforms, social media and other digital channels.

"Through this amendment, we want to ensure that industry workers, especially crew members and employees, are protected by regulations that uphold their rights.

"It also aims to strengthen the rights of producers, allowing them to better monetise their intellectual property (IP) and generate higher income," he said.

Azmir was speaking after an engagement session with academicians from public and private institutions of higher learning on the proposed amendments to Act 244.

Among those involved were representatives from the National Academy of Arts, Culture and Heritage, Universiti Teknologi Mara and Taylor's University.

He said similar sessions will continue to gather input and feedback from academics and industry players.

"For example, in the context of artificial intelligence, activities may not physically take place within the country. The servers could be located overseas. So, the question arises — who holds the IP rights in such cases?"

On March 19, it was reported that the Cabinet had approved in principle the proposed amendments to the Finas Act. —Bernama

MCMC probes two individuals over offensive 3R content

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) has opened four investigation papers against two individuals who allegedly uploaded false and highly offensive content containing 3R elements — race, religion and royalty — on Facebook and TikTok.

In a statement, MCMC said interviews with the suspects were conducted at its headquarters in Cyberjaya on Monday to assist in further investigations.

"One of the two individuals is an influencer and political activist who incited racial sentiments on social media, involving the Perak state anthem, the economic dominance of Malays through the breaking of monopolies such as Petronas and Gas Malaysia Berhad, and the takeover of the Kuala Lumpur Tower," the statement read.

A mobile phone and SIM card belonging to one of the suspects were confiscated for forensic analysis.

In the case of the second suspect, MCMC said police had seized a mobile phone for investigation under Section 233(1)(a) of the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998.

The offence carries a maximum fine of RM500,000, a prison term of up to two years, or both, upon conviction.

The public is urged to use social media platforms responsibly and refrain from uploading 3R-related content that could threaten racial and religious harmony in Malaysia. —Bernama

Civil service urged to embrace new technologies

PUTRAJAYA: Civil servants must embrace new technologies to reduce reliance on external consultants.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has urged civil servants to be exposed to new technologies in order to enhance their efficiency and reduce reliance on foreign and external consultants.

Anwar said current demands require a shift in mindset and the full potential of civil servants must be harnessed for the country's development.

Recalling the era of the 1980s and 1990s, he added that decisions related to fiscal policy, economics, finance and development projects were largely made and implemented by civil servants, with minimal input from consultants.

"I observed that projects were carried out

efficiently, which means that with proper emphasis and training, civil servants are capable of handling these responsibilities.

"But when I took over, I saw far too much dependence on foreign and external consultants," he said during a dinner event honouring the former chief secretary to the government (KSN) and the public service remuneration system (SSPA) team on Monday.

As a result, Anwar said he had recommended to the KSN that a revamp be carried out and that young civil servants be trained to build the necessary expertise, skills and capabilities to meet national needs.

He emphasised that the performance of the civil service must be restored by assigning impactful responsibilities and providing targeted training.

Affected civil servants allowed 'emergency' leave

PUTRAJAYA: Civil servants affected by the Putra Heights blaze have been granted permission to be absent from work under "general emergency" reasons.

This is in accordance with Clause SR.4.2.7 of the Service Circular for Human Resources, which applies to affected civil servants.

The directive was issued by Public Service Director-General Tan Sri Wan Ahmad Dahlan Abdul Aziz via a circular dated April 7, which was shared on the Public Service Department's Facebook page.

"The government has agreed to grant an exemption to the condition prohibiting travel to the office or usual place of work under the Rules for Granting Permission to be Absent from Work for Reasons of General Emergency," he said in the circular.

Wan Ahmad Dahlan said the exemption was granted under two conditions – officers are residents of the affected areas, and that they do not have access to facilities that would allow them to work from home or attend the office.

He added that the exemption was granted specifically for the gas pipeline fire, reported Bernama.

"The head of department may decide on the appropriate period of absence from work, taking into account the welfare of officers and the smooth running of services."

Petronas Gas extends aid to residents

KUALA LUMPUR: Petronas Gas Bhd (PGB) has activated its crisis and emergency response teams and swiftly mobilised resources, including volunteers, to assist and support individuals and families affected by the gas pipeline fire in Putra Heights.

PGB, in a statement, said over 100 staff have volunteered to manage food distribution at the relief centre, with the company providing approximately 1,000 food packs daily.

"Volunteers included PGB employees, some of whom were among the first to assist the Social Welfare Department. Prioritising safety and the well-being of affected communities, PGB has been working closely with designated hospitals and the Health Ministry to facilitate medical care for victims receiving emergency treatment."

PGB said it also collaborated with Prihatin Selangor to help homeowners, who face total or partial loss of property, with monetary aid. To date, more than RM700,000 have been distributed.

"Each household will receive either RM5,000 or RM2,500, depending on the extent of property loss," it said, adding that other Petronas Group entities – Petronas Dagangan Bhd and Yayasan Petronas – have also contributed care packs containing essential supplies for displaced individuals and families. – Bernama

Property demand, prices in Putra Heights expected to drop

Transaction activity will experience slowdown as potential buyers do more due diligence and assess risks: Expert

BY QIRANA NABILLA
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PETALING JAYA: The gas pipeline explosion in Putra Heights is expected to cause a temporary decline in property demand and prices, particularly in areas closest to the disaster site, said an expert.

Universiti Teknologi Malaysia property economics and finance associate professor Dr Muhammad

Najib Razali told *theSun* that affected homes could see a price drop of up to 20% due to safety concerns, long-term risks and buyer hesitation.

"It follows similar cases in Malaysia where industrial disasters and infrastructure disruptions have weakened buyer confidence and slowed real estate activity.

"Transaction activity in the area is likely to slow down as potential buyers conduct more due diligence and assess the risks of purchasing homes nearby.

"As a result, properties may stay on the market for longer periods, reducing demand. While nearby areas outside the explosion zone may not experience the same level of price drop, the overall demand for homes in Putra Heights and its surroundings could shift," he said, adding that the buyers may re-evaluate safety concerns and opt for homes in locations perceived as less affected by industrial infrastructure.

Muhammad Najib said a short-term price correction of 15% to 20% is likely in the immediate vicinity of the pipeline explosion. However, he said long-term recovery will depend on remediation efforts, regulatory actions and the restoration of buyer confidence.

"Fire damage can lead to temporary property devaluation of 10% to 30%, with recovery influenced by public

perception and market sentiment.

"In 2014, an industrial fire in Sungai Buloh damaged warehouses and homes. Although direct devaluation figures were not widely recorded, concerns over long-term risks led to a temporary decline in demand. As cleanup and recovery progressed, the impact on property values gradually faded."

Muhammad Najib said the timeline for restoring fire-damaged homes varies depending on the extent of destruction. For minor fires affecting interiors or surface, he said finishes may require four to eight weeks of repairs.

However, he said in cases of severe structural damage, including compromised wiring and utilities, such as in the Putra Heights blaze, it could take six months to over a year for full rehabilitation.

"Recovery from severe property damage often takes months or even years, as seen worldwide. The 2010 San Bruno gas explosion in the US required repairs lasting six to 18 months, while the Sungai Buloh industrial fire took six to 12 months.

"Such incidents reflect the complexity of fire recovery, which involves inspections, approvals and insurance processes that can significantly delay reconstruction."

Muhammad Najib also said renovation costs for homes affected by the blast will vary depending on the level of damage, adding that major repairs would include structural checks and replacement of plumbing and electrical systems.

"The estimated cost ranges from RM150,000 to RM300,000, but could increase by 20% to 30% due to inflation and rising material costs caused by global tariffs."

He added that the impact of US tariffs on essential materials such as steel, lumber and construction equipment could further inflate repair costs.

However, Muhammad Najib assured that property values can recover as conditions stabilise, rehabilitation efforts take place and public perception improves.



Muhammad Najib said fire damage could lead to temporary property devaluation of 10% to 30%, with recovery influenced by public perception and market sentiment. – ADAM AMIR HAMZAH/THESUN

Shortage of licensed firms to manage strata schemes

BY IKHWAN ZULKAFLEE
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PETALING JAYA: There is a significant gap between the number of licensed property firms and the current strata schemes in the country, said Housing and Local Government Minister Nga Kor Ming.

He said the issue created a ripple effect, evident in the way strata schemes were managed across the nation.

"At present, there are only 594 licensed property management firms overseeing 26,334 strata schemes or 2.91 million strata units in Malaysia.

"In other words, each firm is responsible for managing 44 schemes or nearly 5,000 units," he said in his keynote address at the International Strata Symposium at the M World Hotel yesterday.

"It points to a major problem – there aren't enough licensed firms to adequately manage all the strata schemes, which leads to poor service quality for the Joint Management Body management committees," he added.

Nga highlighted that the shortage of licensed professionals had resulted in a rise in unlicensed property managers.

"As a result, many property owners and tenants, particularly in strata schemes, are facing challenges.

"Property values have dropped due to the poor management by unqualified, poorly trained and dishonest managers."

Nga said his ministry is in discussions with stakeholders to create a new bill that would regulate property and building management more effectively.

"Currently, property managers fall under the Valuers, Appraisers, Estate Agents and Property Managers Act 1981 (Act 242).

"By introducing a new law specifically for property managers, we aim to improve the quality of property management services in Malaysia, ensuring that maintenance fees are spent properly – on things such as lift maintenance, facility upgrades, waste collection and sewage repairs."

He also addressed the need for urban redevelopment, stressing the importance of rejuvenating deteriorating or underused properties in cities.

"With land becoming scarcer, urban redevelopment is essential. We must avoid the situation in which one part of the city thrives, while the other remains in decline."

Nga said the ministry aims to table

the Urban Renewal Act in June, which will focus on four key areas – urban redevelopment, regeneration, revitalisation and conservation.

"Our priority is a structured, inclusive approach to development, guided by our 'leave-no-one-behind' principle."

He pointed out that redevelopment projects benefit homeowners, as they often receive larger, more valuable units than the ones they initially purchased.

"We want to replicate this success with the Urban Renewal Act. In Kuala Lumpur alone, we've identified 139 urban renewal sites, with an estimated gross development value of RM355.3 billion."

The Urban Renewal Act aims to streamline the redevelopment process, protect property owners' rights and boost the local economy.

Mindset shift on earthquake readiness needed

BY HARITH KAMAL
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PETALING JAYA: The powerful earthquake that struck Myanmar last month, sending tremors rippling across Southeast Asia, serves as a reminder of Malaysia's growing vulnerability to natural disasters driven by climate change and seismic activity.

Universiti Teknologi Malaysia structural earthquake engineering expert Prof Dr Azlan Adnan warned that unless Malaysia strengthens the resilience of its buildings and infrastructure, the next tremor closer to home could be devastating.

"The quake in Myanmar proves that distance is no guarantee of safety. Bangkok, that is over 1,000km from the epicentre, still suffered damage, including a collapsed tower.

"Cities such as Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Johor are even closer to the Sumatra Fault Zone and the Sunda Subduction Zone, just 300km to 600km away."

Azlan added that recent climatic anomalies, such as rising sea levels, are placing additional pressure on seabed fault lines, potentially increasing seismic risks in the region.

"Rising seawater from climate change doesn't just erode coastlines, but it increases pressure on

Expert says many high-rise structures in country engineered to resist wind loads but not tremors

underwater fault lines, raising the likelihood of earthquakes."

He added that many buildings in Malaysia, although modern in appearance, are not designed to withstand seismic events.

"Most high-rise buildings in Malaysia are engineered to resist wind loads, not earthquakes. Soft alluvial soils and reclaimed land in areas such as the Klang Valley and Putrajaya could amplify seismic waves. This could turn a minor tremor into devastating ground motion.

"If an earthquake's vibrations match a building's natural rhythm, a phenomenon known as resonance, even strong buildings could be seriously damaged," he said.

Building repair and rectification expert Kuan You Wai echoed Azlan's concerns and called on the government to subsidise seismic retrofitting (process of upgrading buildings) of older buildings and enforce modern, earthquake resilient building codes.

"We need to make seismic design a standard, not a luxury. Malaysia

should adopt Eurocode 8 (the European standard for designing earthquake-resistant structures) and retrofit existing buildings with base isolators and energy-damping systems, especially at locations with earthquake risks such as Bentong, Kuala Lumpur, Miri, Kota Kinabalu, Renau, Kuala Lipis, Manjong and Kenyir, that have experienced tremors in the past."

Kuan also emphasised the importance of post-earthquake structural audits under section 85A in the Street, Drainage, and Building Act 1974 to assess and reinforce vulnerable structures after a disaster strikes.

"Malaysia's vast network of flyovers, pedestrian bridges and public transport systems is also at risk. The Penang Bridge and Kuala Lumpur's LRT and MRT lines were not built with major seismic events in mind.

"Flexible joints, seismic bearings and reinforced columns must become the norm, especially in high-traffic areas."

He called for nationwide

microzonation (mapping how local soil affects seismic activity) studies to assess the influence of soil on earthquakes and use computer simulations to indicate how key infrastructure would perform during different earthquake scenarios.

"Preparedness is not just a policy, but it must become a culture. We need to train engineers, architects and planners in seismic design. Real-time monitoring tools such as the MyShake app, that detects earthquakes and alerts users, and regular earthquake drills must be prioritised," he said.

With climate change triggering more extreme weather and geological disturbances, he stressed that urgent action is needed.

"The Myanmar earthquake is no longer just someone else's problem. It's a preview of what could happen here.

"We must not wait for buildings to collapse before taking steps. Think of families in high-rise apartments, children in decades-old schools and workers crossing bridges daily," he said.

"The cost of doing nothing may cost lives."

Among the measures proposed by Azlan and Kuan are funding for earthquake mitigation programmes, enforcing stricter building codes and investing in public education and early warning systems.

Safe and eco-friendly toothpaste

JOHOR BAHRU: What if brushing your teeth could help save the planet?

That is the idea behind "AnanaShine", an innovative toothpaste developed by researchers at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) made entirely from pineapple.

Designed with children in mind, AnanaShine is fluoride-free, ensuring it is safe even if swallowed during brushing, said UTM Institute of Bioproduct Development director Assoc Prof Dr Rosnani Hasham.

She said the product is a sustainable, eco-friendly and natural alternative to conventional toothpaste that harnesses the unique properties of pineapple to keep teeth healthy, white and shiny.

The innovation not only supports local pineapple farmers but also promotes an environmentally conscious approach to oral care.

"Pineapple is rich in bromelain, an enzyme that helps break down plaque and protein residue while being gentle on tooth enamel. It's also packed with antioxidants and malic acid, which naturally brighten teeth," Rosnani said, adding that AnanaShine has a natural pineapple flavour, in addition to sorbitol and glycerine, which help keep lips and the mouth hydrated.

The product won a silver medal at the 2024 Industrial Arts and Technology Exhibition held at the Persada Johor International Convention Centre last October.

With the backing of the Malaysian Pineapple Industry Board, the UTM team is also working to bring the product to a wider audience, aiming to partner industry leaders to introduce AnanaShine to health conscious consumers nationwide. - Bernama

Penang rockfall study completed

GEORGE TOWN: Rotten and weak tree roots and soft soil due to rain are believed to be among causes of a rockfall at Jalan Paya Terubong on Friday, which resulted in the death of a foreign motorcyclist who is believed to have collided with a 0.45m X 0.36m rock.

Penang Infrastructure, Transport and Digital Committee chairman Zairil Khir Johari said the findings were obtained through a technical study conducted at the incident location by the state Public Works Department (PWD) through slope safety specialist company Pintas Utama Sdn Bhd and the Penang City Council Engineering Department (Geotech).

He said PWD and the council have been instructed to conduct a detailed investigation at the site to determine the cause of the rock and soil movement and conduct a slope stability study upon receiving a preliminary report on the incident.

"The results of the study also found that the stone block is believed to have rolled down the slope and collided with another block in the roadside ditch before falling onto the road.

"Based on the impact of the broken stone and the position of the victim, it is suspected that the victim collided with a stone that had fallen earlier. (He was) not crushed by rocks as reported," he said in a statement.



Safety sheets have since been placed at the site to prevent further soil movement. - PIC FROM ZAIRIL KHIR JOHARI FACEBOOK PAGE

Zairil said as a safety measure, Penang PWD has implemented a traffic management plan involving installation of rockfall warning signs

along the road.

In addition, safety sheets were also placed at risk-prone sites to prevent rocks from falling directly

onto the road as a short-term solution while a long-term mitigation plan is being refined at the department level. - Bernama

Pre-Hospital Care Bill to be tabled

PUTRAJAYA: The Pre-Hospital Care Bill is expected to be tabled in Parliament early next year, said Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad.

He said the Health Ministry is drafting the Bill, that would include elements of a "Good Samaritan law" to protect individuals who assist in emergencies from legal repercussions.

"This is something I've been advocating since my first term, and we are now looking into it.

"The Medical Development Division and the Legal Affairs Division are looking at how we can amplify and encourage (individuals) who have certified skills to confidently step forward and carry out life-saving interventions during critical moments," he said after a ceremony to present 210 automated external defibrillators donated by 99 Speedmart Sdn Bhd yesterday.

He said the matter is part of his commitment to Malaysians, aimed at encouraging the public to assist in emergencies without fear of being sued or facing legal action.

"This is a commitment I want and that the ministry is determined to carry out," he said. - Bernama

Foreigner reported missing on outing found drowned

MERSING: An Indian national on an outing at Pulau Mawar with two others, who was earlier reported missing, was found drowned on Monday.

Endau Fire and Rescue Station chief Assistant Superintendent Mohd Alias Hussin said the victim, Narayanan Ravi, 45, was found about 300m from Pulau Mawar, a 30-minute drive from Mersing town.

He is believed to have gone missing at about 4.50pm.

"The victim was found by the operations recovery team, who then used a rope to pull the body ashore," he said in a statement.

Earlier reports stated that a 37-year-old Singaporean man Yogaraj Veeran was found floating unconscious near the beach and brought ashore by members of the public, while a local man, K. Anpananthan, 39, managed to save himself.

Mohd Alias said the fire department received information about the incident at 2.37pm before deploying seven personnel to the scene.

"The bodies of the two victims, who were from Johor Bahru, have been handed over to the police for further action," he added.

In a separate incident in Seremban, a Myanmar national was found drowned along the banks of the Kampung Segu Hilir River in Lombong Rantau on Monday evening, 3.5km from where he was reported to have fallen while fishing on Sunday.

Seremban police chief ACP Mohamad Hatta Che Din said the body of the 35-year-old victim was recovered at 4.55pm.

The search had taken over 24 hours due to rain that caused the river to swell.

The body has been sent to Rembau Hospital for further action.

He said 49 police personnel, along with members of the Fire and Rescue Department and Syarikat Air Negeri Sembilan, were involved in the search and recovery operation.

The victim was reportedly fishing near the Sungai Linggi Water Treatment Plant with his younger brother and two friends when the incident occurred. — Bernama

Police probe Mara Junior Science College bullying case

► Chairman vows zero tolerance regardless of background of students involved, with seven facing expulsion

NIBONG TEBAL: Police have opened an investigation paper into a bullying incident involving a group of students from Mara Junior Science College (MJSC) in South Seberang Perai.

District police chief Supt Jay January Siowou said police took immediate action after a video of the incident was widely shared on social media, identifying the institution and all individuals involved.

He added that all of them had their statements recorded under Section 323 of the Penal Code for voluntarily causing hurt.

"Investigations are being conducted holistically, taking into account all aspects. The case will be referred to the deputy public prosecutor's office for further action once investigations are completed," he said in a statement.

On Monday, police detected a

video uploaded by the Facebook account Utara Kini, showing a scene believed to have taken place in a hostel room, where several individuals appeared to be bullying a person lying on a bed.

Police have since confirmed that the incident occurred at an MJSC in the South Seberang Perai district in the middle of last year.

Meanwhile, the MJSC disciplinary committee has recommended the expulsion of seven students involved in the incident, Bernama reported.

Mara chairman Datuk Dr Asyraf Wajdi Dusuki, in a Facebook post yesterday, said two of the students were directly involved in physical bullying, while five others were considered accomplices.

"It was recommended that all of them be expelled from MJSC.

"No matter whose children they are – whether the children of a Tan Sri, a Datuk or other influential individuals – if they were involved in bullying, firm and stern action will be taken.

"No need to find a way to talk me out of it. My office will never entertain such bullies," he said.

Asyraf added that he did not support giving the students a second chance, noting that since his appointment as Mara chairman, he had made clear his principle of #YouTouchYouGo for bullies and his firm stance against any culture of bullying at Mara institutions, including MJSC.



A screenshot of the incident that was widely shared on social media, leading police to identify all individuals involved.

Nine held over rioting with deadly weapons

IPOH: Police have arrested nine local men in connection with an armed rioting incident that took place in Jelapang, near Meru Raya, on Sunday.

IpoH police chief ACP Abang Zainal Abidin Abang Ahmad said the suspects, aged between 19 and 41, were detained at separate locations from 6.45am on Monday following a report lodged by a 36-year-old man who claimed he had been attacked by a group of armed individuals.

During the arrests, police also seized a car and a golf club.

"The motive appears to be a dispute involving a motorcycle seized during illegal racing. Six victims sustained injuries and received outpatient treatment. The weapons used included a baseball bat, machete, samurai sword, helmet and long knife," he said in a statement.

Two of the suspects have prior criminal and drug-related records, while four tested positive for drugs, he added. — Bernama

'Lack of ventilation system led to deaths'

IPOH: The absence of a ventilation system has been identified as one of the causes behind the deaths of three individuals during a cleaning operation in a sewer shaft at a resort construction site in Lenggong on April 6, the Perak Department of Occupational Safety and Health revealed yesterday.

In a statement, it said investigations at the site found that no records of safe work procedures for confined space entry had been provided to the workers, in breach of the Industry Code of Practice for Safe Working in a Confined Space 2010.

"The resort construction site has yet to submit the mandatory construction project notification to the department," the statement read.

The department's preliminary findings indicate that two of the deceased were daily wage workers tasked with general duties, including

sewer system construction, while the third victim was a member of the public.

Concrete work on the sewer manhole – measuring 4.04m in length, 5.2m in width and 2.4m in depth – was completed about two weeks earlier. Following this, the manhole was sealed.

"On April 6, at about 9.30am, the first victim opened the manhole and entered the sewer shaft, where he lost consciousness.

"The second victim went down the shaft to assist his colleague but also lost consciousness. The third individual collapsed while attempting to help. The first and second victims were pronounced dead at the scene, and the third died at the Lenggong Health Clinic," the statement added.

The department stressed that it takes incidents involving both workers and the public seriously, noting that employers are fully responsible for workplace safety.

This includes identifying hazards, carrying out risk assessments and implementing effective control measures before any work begins.

The department said legal action would be taken against those found violating the Occupational Safety and Health Act 1994.

An immediate stop-work notice has been issued for all activities at the sewer manhole, while the affected work area has been sealed pending further investigation.

The department added that it will continue its investigation by collecting relevant documents and recording witness statements.

"A directive has also been issued to ensure proper safe work procedures and risk assessments are carried out at the sewer manhole site. This includes appointing qualified personnel such as authorised gas testers," it said. — Bernama

Fire risks linked to excessive car upgrades, modifications

SIBU: The Sarawak Fire and Rescue Department has cautioned car owners against upgrading their vehicles with electronic gadgets, warning that most vehicle fires are caused by overloaded electrical wiring systems resulting from such modifications.

Its director Jamri Masran said overloading the wiring system can cause temperatures to rise rapidly and spread, triggering a fire.

"Based on our statistics and findings, when a car catches fire, it's usually due to electrical issues. Rarely is the engine the cause. If it is, it's usually due to an oil leak.

"Owners tend to modify their vehicles by adding accessories

such as sound systems and radios that require higher power. If they later try to claim damages from the manufacturer, it won't be entertained because modifications have been made," he said.

Jamri was speaking after attending the Sarawak JBPM Hari Raya gathering at the Sungai Merah Fire and Rescue Station on Monday night.

He reminded car owners in Sarawak not to make electrical modifications that could lead to dangerous wiring overloads and increase the risk of fire.

"It's best to maintain the vehicle as it was when it left the factory, for the owners' safety," he added. — Bernama

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Sustainable spin on tradition

➤ Entrepreneur goes from river conservation efforts to recycling old and damaged *songkok*

SHAH ALAM: Driven by a passion for the environment and a commitment to preserve heritage, an entrepreneur from Sabak Bernam in Selangor started a recycling campaign for old or damaged *songkok*.

Mohd Hafzan Sardi, 37, founder of *Songkok Malaya*, a brand which specialises in premium and traditional *songkok* making, said the campaign received overwhelming response in just two months after it was launched in October last year.

"I was inspired to start the campaign due to my work as an engineer managing water resources, particularly in river conservation in Selangor, which taught me to optimise resources.

"For example, cardboard or newspapers used as the base materials in *songkok* are not discarded. Instead, we turn them into compost or collect them with other excess materials before sending them to recycling centres."

He added that the initiative, promoted on *Songkok Malaya's* official social media, led to the collection of nearly 200 old and damaged *songkok*. Customers who exchanged their old *songkok* also received discounts on new ones.

"The market price for our premium traditional *songkok*, which is made entirely of fabric, ranges between RM50 and RM90, depending on the size. For children, the price is RM35.

"When customers exchange their old, worn-out or damaged *songkok* with ours, we offer a price as low as RM25, while children's *songkok* are RM12.90 each. The price varies based on the type and design chosen," he said, adding that a second round of the campaign would start in November.

"We want to run the campaign continuously because of the strong public support. However, we face challenges, especially in terms of manpower. We only have five employees, including two tailors, and our focus is on selling *songkok*."

Reflecting on his business journey, Mohd



Mohd Hafzan said cardboard or newspapers and other excess materials used in making *songkok* are not discarded but sent to recycling centres. —BERNAMAPIC

Hafzan said his participation in innovation competitions while working at Lembaga Urus Air Selangor, a state-run water management agency, from 2016 to 2020, inspired him to develop durable and washable *songkok*.

"Traditionally, *songkok* is made from cardboard or newspaper, which can easily be damaged when washed. However, through continuous research from 2018 to 2020, we replaced these materials with more flexible, high-quality fabric, making our *songkok* machine-washable without losing the shape.

"I began selling on a small scale, and in 2021, I joined the Bumiputera Entrepreneurs Startup Scheme under the Bumiputera Agenda Steering Unit. I was fortunate to receive a RM500,000 grant, which became a turning point in expanding my business."

Songkok Malaya produces several key products, including the traditional *songkok*

inspired by the designs of Johor and Brunei Darussalam, as well as custom-made *songkok*.

The brand has branches in Shah Alam, Selangor and Marang in Terengganu, with distributors nationwide, Bernama reported.

It also supplies baju Melayu accessories, including *songkok* brooches, *tanjak* (traditional Malay headdress), and *samping* (waistcloth) for weddings and cultural events.

Mohd Hafzan's innovation has earned him several prestigious awards, including the Malaysia Design Award 2023, the Selangor Innovation Award 2022 and a gold medal at the National Innovation and Invention Competition Through Exhibition 2022.

Songkok Malaya was also selected for the Graduate Entrepreneur Advanced Programme by the Selangor Development Corporation, a nine-month mentoring initiative which started in March, added Mohd Hafzan.

Harmonising baju Melayu with *chappal*, formal shoes

KUALA LUMPUR: Wearing footwear that complements traditional attire is not just a matter of style but also a reflection of respect for cultural heritage.

When wearing *baju Melayu* or *baju kurung*, selecting the right footwear enhances one's appearance.

Fashion designer Hatta Dolmat said men wearing *baju Melayu* should opt for *chappal* or formal shoes as this would harmonise with the traditional elements of the outfit.

He added that the *chappal*, traditionally worn with Malay attire for generations, remains relevant in modern fashion and continues to be the preferred choice for those who wish to preserve the authenticity of Malay clothing.

"*Chappal* is not ordinary footwear, it symbolises our heritage and cultural identity. When one wears it with *baju Melayu*, it shows respect for tradition."

However, he said with changing times, good quality modern sandals can also be an alternative.

Hatta said for women, there is a wider variety of footwear choices, including low-heeled shoes or formal sandals, which goes well with *baju kurung*.

However, wearing slippers, especially Japanese-style flip-flops, can diminish the elegance of the overall look.

"To look neat, it is best to avoid overly casual slippers."

Government employee Muttaqien Ahmad, 33, believes that the choice of footwear should align with what one is wearing for the Hari Raya celebrations.

"Although sneakers are becoming more accepted, I still believe that formal shoes or loafers are a better match for traditional attire."

Television personality Dayah Bakar said while slippers may not be suitable for formal events, they remain the preferred choice for people seeking practicality in certain settings.

"I personally prefer wearing closed-toed shoes when attending official open houses. For more relaxed occasions, such as gatherings with families and relatives, I think stylish and high-quality slippers are a good alternative." —Bernama

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Philippine volcano eruption attributed to gas pressure

➤ Level Three alert remains in effect

MANILA: An explosive Mount Kanlaon eruption yesterday was triggered by underground gas pressure, said the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

The eruption sent a plume of ash 4km into the sky and forced authorities to close schools and evacuate nearby residents.

Phivolcs director Teresito Bacolcol said sulfur dioxide emissions were relatively low before the eruption, with only 16 volcanic earthquakes recorded in the past 48 hours.

"This indicates pressure beneath the volcano due to gas," he told the Philippine News Agency.

He explained that an explosive eruption is highly violent and powerful, triggered by the rapid release of gas and pressure from magma beneath the Earth surface.

During such eruptions, ash columns, volcanic gases and pyroclastic density currents (PDC) are typically present.

PDC from Mount Kanlaon were observed descending the slopes of the volcano's southern side while residents in Barangay Cubay, La Carlota City reported a sulfuric smell.

According to Phivolcs, Mount Kanlaon's sulfur dioxide emission averaged 1,655 tonnes on Monday and 1,419 tonnes on Sunday.

When asked whether the alert level would be raised, Bacolcol said a Level Three alert remains in effect.

Phivolcs said the Level Three

alert has been in effect for Mount Kanlaon, one of 24 active volcanoes in the Philippines, since December last year after it erupted.

A Level Three alert indicates magmatic unrest, with the possibility of further explosive eruptions within weeks and the potential for hazardous activity.

"We were prepared for the eruption. Families within four to six kilometres were already evacuated during the previous eruption in December," said Negros Occidental province La Castellana municipality rescue official John De Asis.

"Right now, we are just monitoring which villages will be affected by the ashfall."

He added that the authorities are recommending the cancellation of classes at schools and work in the municipality.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has confirmed its readiness to respond to any emergencies arising from Mount Kanlaon's volcanic activity.

Its chief general Romeo Brawner Jr made the statement during his visit to the 303rd Infantry Brigade of the 3rd Infantry Division at Camp Gerona, Murcia in Negros Occidental on Monday.

"Brawner encouraged military personnel to stay mission-focused and committed to national security and disaster response efforts," AFP Public Affairs Office chief Col Xerxes Trinidad said in a statement.

He added that AFP stands ready to support evacuations, relief operations and other humanitarian responses as necessary to ensure public safety and regional stability. — Bernama-PNA



The view of Mount Kanlaon erupting as seen from a village in La Castellana in Negros Occidental Province, central Philippines. — AFP/PIIC

BRIEFS

GLOBAL TEMPERATURES AT RECORD HIGH

PARIS: Global temperatures hovered at historic highs in March, prolonging an extraordinary heat streak that has tested scientific expectations, Europe's Copernicus climate monitor said yesterday. It said last month was the second hottest March in its dataset, sustaining record or near record breaking temperatures that have persisted globally since July 2023. It added that Europe experienced its hottest March ever recorded by a significant margin, driving extreme conditions across a continent warming faster than any other. The month saw "contrasting rainfall extremes across Europe with many areas experiencing their driest March on record and others their wettest" for about half a century, said Samantha Burgess of the European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasts. — AFP

HADONG WILDFIRE UNDER CONTROL

HADONG: A wildfire in the southern county of Hadong in South Korea was mostly contained yesterday, a day after the blaze reignited in a region battered by the nation's worst wildfires in history last month. The main fires were brought under control in Hadong, some 290km southeast of Seoul, as of 11pm on Monday, with 99% of them contained, according to the Korea Forest Service. It issued a Level Two fire response and deployed 36 helicopters and other personnel to battle the blaze. Since then, authorities have mobilised 72 pieces of equipment and 753 personnel to continue firefighting operations. The forest service plans to deploy helicopters to the scene again after sunrise. Officials said 506 residents affected by the fire fled to a nearby school for safety. — Bernama-Yonhap

South Korea sets election on June 3

SEOUL: South Korea will hold a presidential election on June 3, the country's acting president said yesterday, after Seoul's former leader Yoon Suk Yeol was removed from office over a declaration of martial law.

A court last week upheld Yoon's impeachment, triggering fresh elections, which must be held within 60 days.

Prime Minister Han Duck-soo said June 3 would be designated as a temporary public holiday to facilitate voting.

Unlike a regular poll, in which a president-elect has a two-month transition period, the winner of the election will be inaugurated the following day.

The official campaign period will run from May 12 until June 2.

Opposition leader Lee Jae-myung is the frontrunner in polls, with a 34% support rating, according to the latest Gallup poll.

His party already controls the National Assembly.

In second place is Labour Minister Kim Moon-soo.

Polling at around 9%, he leads a pack of challengers from Yoon's People Power Party, which includes former party chief Han Dong-hoon.

Yoon is the second South Korean leader to be impeached after Park Geun-hye in 2017. — AFP

Vietnam needs strategy to tap global *halal* market

HANOI: Vietnam must strengthen its *halal* product ecosystem to meet growing global demand, particularly by aligning with international quality and certification standards, Vietnam News Agency (VNA) reported, quoting experts and officials.

Vietnam Ministry of Science and Technology National Halal Certification Centre director Ramlan Osman emphasised that Vietnam holds potential in the global *halal* market, which is valued at about US\$3 trillion (RM13.4 trillion).

He said the country is rich in raw materials suited for *halal* production.

Vietnam's recognition as one of the world's top tourist destinations since 2018 has enhanced its hospitality and food service sectors, with a noticeable increase in *halal*

restaurants and catering services.

Osman added that the current supply only meets about 10% of market demand, describing this gap as "a golden opportunity" for Vietnamese producers to expand into the lucrative *halal* sector.

Vietnam Industry and Trade Deputy Minister Nguyen Sinh Nhat Tan called the *halal* market a strategic frontier for Vietnamese businesses amid global uncertainties.

He encouraged companies to build strong *halal* brands, diversify their market reach and establish promotional networks with clear objectives.

Vietnam Trade Office in Saudi Arabia head Tran Trong Kim stressed the need for clearer guidelines on *halal* certification procedures.

He said many countries require third-party certification rather than direct acceptance of *halal* claims from businesses.

He recommended encouraging foreign investors to set up *halal*-compliant facilities in Vietnam.

Vietnam Trade Office in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) head Truong Xuan Trung urged improvements in Vietnam's legal framework on *halal* products.

He added that the newly signed Vietnam-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement could facilitate the export of *halal*-certified goods to the Gulf region.

Vietnam Cashew Association vice-chairman Tran Van Hiep highlighted the importance of *halal*

certification for export growth.

Last year, Vietnam exported 700,000 tonnes of cashew nuts valued at US\$3.8 billion. He noted that *halal* certification has enabled greater access to key markets, including the United States, Europe, Australia and the Middle East.

Vietnam Trade Office in Malaysia head Le Phu Cuong observed that although *halal* certification is not mandatory for Malaysian imports, it is highly prioritised by importers due to the country's 60% Muslim population.

He cautioned that Vietnamese products face stiff competition in Malaysia from regional players, such as China, Thailand and Indonesia, who have greater product diversity and better market insight. — Bernama-VNA

US scholar detained in Thailand, charged with insulting monarchy

BANGKOK: A prominent American academic was detained yesterday and charged with insulting Thailand's monarchy, his lawyer told AFP, in a rare case of a foreign national falling foul of the kingdom's *lese-majeste* law.

Paul Chambers, who has spent

more than a decade teaching Southeast Asia politics in Thailand, is in pre-trial detention awaiting a decision on his bail request, said lawyer Wannaphat Jenroumjit.

"He has denied the charge."

The Thai military filed a complaint

this year against Chambers over an article linked to an online discussion.

He was told to report to a police station in the northern Phitsanulok province yesterday to respond.

Chambers said he felt "intimidated" by the situation but

was being supported by the US embassy and colleagues at his university.

Charges under Thailand's royal defamation law have surged in recent years and critics say it is misused to stifle dissent. — AFP

Supreme Court lifts ban on wartime law deportations

► 'Detainees must be given opportunity to legally challenge their removal'

WASHINGTON: The US Supreme Court handed President Donald Trump a victory on Monday by lifting a lower court order barring the deportation of undocumented Venezuelan migrants using an obscure wartime law.

However, it said migrants subject to deportation under the Alien Enemies Act 1798 must be given an opportunity to legally challenge their removal.

The 5-4 decision by the conservative-dominated Supreme Court will allow the Trump administration to resume deportations that had been blocked by a federal district court judge.

Trump invoked the Act, which has only previously been used during wartime, to round up alleged Venezuelan gang members and summarily deport them to a notorious maximum security prison in El Salvador.

Attorneys for several of the deported

Venezuelans said their clients are not members of the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua, have committed no crimes and were targeted largely on the basis of their tattoos.

The Republican president, who campaigned on a pledge to expel millions of undocumented migrants, welcomed the ruling in a post on Truth Social.

"The Supreme Court has upheld the rule of law in our nation by allowing a president, whoever that may be, to be able to secure our borders, and protect our families and our country."

District judge James Boasberg issued temporary restraining orders barring further flights of deportees under the Act after plane loads of Venezuelan migrants were sent to El Salvador on March 15.

The Supreme Court lifted Boasberg's orders but mostly on technical grounds related to venue as the group of Venezuelan migrants who sued to prevent their removal are in Texas while the case before Boasberg was brought in Washington.

"The detainees are confined in Texas, so the venue is improper in the District of Columbia," the justices said, leaving the door open to similar challenges to the legality of using the Act in lower courts.

The Supreme Court made it clear that migrants subject to deportation under the Act are entitled to some form of due process.

"Detainees subject to removal orders under the Act are entitled to notice and an opportunity to challenge their removal. The only question is which court will resolve that challenge."

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) attorney Lee Gelernt said the ruling that deportees are entitled to due process is an "important victory".

The ACLU is the body that filed suit against the deportations.

Chief justice John Roberts and four other conservative justices voted to lift the district court order while three liberal justices and justice Amy Coney Barrett, a Trump appointee, dissented.

"Trump has invoked a centuries-old wartime statute to whisk people away to a notoriously brutal, foreign-run prison," justice Ketanji Brown Jackson said. "For lovers of liberty, this should be quite concerning."

Justice Sonia Sotomayor, another liberal, said: "The government's conduct in this litigation poses an extraordinary threat to the rule of law. We, as a nation and a court of law, should be better than this." - AFP

'Another pandemic will certainly occur'

GENEVA: Another pandemic will occur sooner or later and this is not a "theoretical risk" but an "epidemiological certainty", warned World Health Organisation (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Monday.

Speaking at the opening of the resumed Thirteenth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body on the WHO Pandemic Agreement, he reiterated the consequences of the Covid-19 outbreak worldwide.

He reiterated that another pandemic "could happen in 20 years or more, or it could happen tomorrow. But it will happen and either way we must be ready".

"You have seen what the pandemic did. Officially 7 million people were killed but we estimate the true toll to be 20 million. And on top of the human cost, the pandemic wiped more than US\$10 trillion (RM44 trillion) from the global economy."

He expressed hope that a consensus could be reached during the talks on the WHO Pandemic Agreement.

He said: "This agreement would in no way infringe any Member State's sovereignty. In fact, the opposite. It would strengthen national sovereignty and international action."

The 77th World Health Assembly held in Geneva from May 27 to June 1 last year agreed to introduce amendments to the International Health Regulations and continue talks on the pandemic agreement. - Bernama-TASS

BRIEFS

FIRST WOMB TRANSPLANT BABY BORN IN UK

LONDON: A baby girl has become the first in the United Kingdom (UK) to be born from a womb transplant, a London hospital said yesterday. Amy was born on Feb 27 at the Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital in London, two years after her mother Grace Davidson received a womb transplant from her older sister. Grace expressed hope that "going forward this could provide an additional option for women who would otherwise be unable to carry their own child". More than 100 womb transplants have been carried out worldwide since the first ones in Sweden in 2013, and around 50 healthy babies have been born. - AFP

TRIBUTE TO PHOTOGRAPHERS KILLED IN FESTIVAL MISHAP

MEXICO CITY: Relatives and friends of photographers Berenice Giles, 28, and Miguel Hernandez, 26, who were killed in an accident at music festival Axe Ceremonia here, paid tribute to their lost loved ones on Monday. The duo died when a decorative structure collapsed on them on Saturday. President Claudia Sheinbaum said it was an accident but there should not be impunity. The structure was being moved by a crane when it came crashing down. The accident happened in the evening but the festival kept going until midnight before it was suspended. The structure had apparently been added after a final safety inspection, said officials in Miguel Hidalgo. - AFP

FOUR DEAD, FOUR INJURED IN ROAD COLLISION

SAO PAULO: Four members of a single family, including a seven-year-old, were killed and four others injured after a vehicle collided head on with a school bus in south Brazil's Parana state, the local Fire Department said on Monday. The crash occurred on Sunday on a federal highway in the municipality of Cambora, reported Xinhua. Federal Highway Police said the car was trying to overtake a line of vehicles when it smashed into the school bus travelling in the opposite direction, injuring and hospitalising four students. The bus was taking 15 teenagers to the Cambora Agricultural College in Parana state, one of Brazil's most important agricultural hubs. - Bernama-Xinhua



BLASTING OFF ... Two Roscosmos cosmonauts and a Nasa astronaut (left) attending a ceremony before the launch of the Soyuz MS-27 spacecraft at the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan yesterday. - YURI KOCHETKOV/POOL VIA REUTERS

21 dead in US Midwest and South storms

HOUSTON: At least 21 individuals have been killed amid fierce storms battering parts of the US Midwest and South, with major flooding and powerful tornadoes since April 2, reported Xinhua quoting local media reports on Monday.

The death toll stands at 10 in Tennessee, three in Missouri, two each in Kentucky, Georgia and Indiana, and one each in Arkansas and Mississippi, said an NBC News report.

The victims include a 9-year-old boy swept away by floodwaters on his way to school in Kentucky, two people killed when a tree fell on them at a golf course in Georgia, a 5-year-old child found in a home in Little Rock, Arkansas and a 16-year-old volunteer firefighter who

died in a car crash when responding to a reported water rescue in Missouri.

AccuWeather chief meteorologist Jonathan Porter said on Monday it is estimated that the economic loss from the severe weather and flooding is between US\$80 billion (RM358 billion) and US\$90 billion.

"Unless property owners have specific flood insurance, losses and repairs will most likely not be covered by standard policies."

As of Monday morning, 18 river gauge sites were at major flood stage and 256 locations across the central United States were at or above flood stage, spanning multiple rivers and tributaries, according to an AccuWeather report.

Rains have ended over the Tennessee, Ohio and Mississippi river basins but runoff from between 20cm and 40cm of rain over just a few days will continue to surge into larger rivers and lead to moderate to major flooding that could persist for weeks, AccuWeather meteorologists advised.

The amount of rain that fell over a four-day stretch was rare, occurring once every 100 to 1,000 years over a broad area, based on the historical average, they noted.

Forecasters attributed the recent violent weather to warm temperatures, an unstable atmosphere, strong wind shear and abundant moisture streaming from the Gulf, said a report from weather.com. - Bernama-Xinhua

RUSSIA FINES TELEGRAM FOR NOT REMOVING ANTI-GOVT CONTENT

MOSCOW: A court here has fined Telegram RUB\$7 million (RM365,474) for refusing to remove content calling for terrorist attacks and participation in protests aiming to overthrow the Russian government, news agency TASS reported yesterday. It said some channels listed in the court documents called for participation in terrorist attacks on railway transport, with the aim of helping Ukrainian forces. Telegram did not immediately respond to a request for comment outside business hours. — Reuters

UKRAINIAN DUO JAILED FOR HIGH-TECH POKER CHEATING AT CASINO

ANNECY: Two Ukrainians behind a high-tech casino heist, involving ear pieces and hidden cameras linked to an accomplice in another country, were jailed for 15 months by a French court on Monday. The men, aged 35 and 71, are estimated to have made more than EUR\$270,000 (RM1.32 million) in more than a year of cheating in poker at casinos in Annecy and other French cities, according to police. Arrested at a casino on Feb 13, the court found them guilty of cheating and money laundering. Prosecutor Justine Bernardi told the court how the pair used mobile phones left on the table or hidden in their shirt pockets to transmit real-time images of cards turned over on the poker table to an accomplice in another country. The two will be expelled from France after serving their prison terms, the court ordered. — AFP

Israel claims strike targeted militant

GAZA: Hamas and rescuers said an Israeli strike on southern Gaza killed one journalist and wounded nine others on Monday while the Israeli military reported that it had targeted a militant posing as a reporter.

An air strike hit a tent used by journalists in the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis, said civil defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal.

The Hamas government media office said journalist Hilmi al-Faqawi, who worked for a local news agency, was killed in the attack and called it "part of a growing series of crimes targeting journalists directly in a systematic attempt to silence the Palestinian voice and erase the truth".

However, the Israeli military said its forces had "struck the Hamas terrorist Hassan Abdel Fattah Mohammed Aslih in the Khan Younis area", without specifying whether he had been killed.

It claimed Hassan operated "under the guise of a journalist and owns a press company" and had "infiltrated Israeli territory and participated in the murderous massacre carried out by the Hamas terrorist organisation on Oct 7".

In central Gaza, Bassal said an Israeli air strike hit three houses in Deir el-Balah city and killed at least seven people.

Deir el-Balah was the target of an Israeli evacuation order on Sunday, warning residents of imminent attacks in response to a rocket salvo that the military said was fired from the area.

Bassal said a strike also hit "a group of civilians" in Gaza City's Zeitun neighbourhood, killing three people.

He said there was ongoing artillery shelling across Gaza and home demolitions in Rafah, on the territory's southern border with Egypt. — AFP

Chaos in court during bid by Netanyahu to sack spy chief

➤ Shouts and interruptions force judges to halt proceedings after 30 minutes

JERUSALEM: Israel's top court began a hearing yesterday on the legality of a hotly contested decision to sack domestic security chief Ronen Bar, with protests from government supporters and critics briefly interrupting the proceedings.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced on March 21 that his government had unanimously approved a motion to dismiss the head of the Shin Bet internal security agency, citing "lack of trust" and requiring Bar to leave his post by Thursday.

The hearing follows petitions filed by opposition parties and non-profit groups, challenging the legality of the government's move, which the Supreme Court had frozen until a ruling was made.

Protests were held outside the Jerusalem courtroom. Inside, shouts and interruptions

forced the judges to halt proceedings after only 30 minutes.

"No court in the world is run this way," said Supreme Court president Yitzhak Amit after warning government supporters and critics who interrupted the hearing.

Amit called for a recess, during which scuffles between the sides continued outside the courtroom.

The hearing resumed about an hour later, with no audience, "to allow the right to argue without fear for all parties involved", according to Amit.

The judges will likely issue a decision later in the week, according to media reports.

Bar has pushed back against the move to sack him, dismissing Netanyahu's arguments as "general, unsubstantiated accusations".

He claimed that the real motivation was based on "personal interest" intended to "prevent investigations into the events leading up to Oct 7 and other serious matters" being looked at by the Shin Bet, referring to the 2023 Hamas attack on Israel.

Attorney-general Gali Baharav-Miara said the bid to oust Bar, who joined the Shin Bet in 1993 and was only meant to end his tenure next

year, is "tainted by a personal conflict of interest on the part of Netanyahu due to the criminal investigations involving his associates".

She was referring to a case involving Netanyahu's close advisers under investigation for allegedly receiving money from Qatar.

Baharav-Miara, who has often clashed with the Netanyahu administration over the independence of the judiciary, said firing Bar could lead to the politicisation of the position.

Her legal opinion, alongside letters from Bar, were sent on Friday to the Supreme Court, according to a statement from her.

Appointed Shin Bet chief in October 2021 by the previous government, led by opponents of Netanyahu, Bar has clashed with Netanyahu since his return to power in late 2022.

Bar was critical of a government proposal to reform the judiciary, which drew hundreds of thousands of Israelis onto the streets in protest and was temporarily shelved when the Gaza war began.

Tensions between the two worsened when a Shin Bet report on the failures that had led to Hamas's attack, including the government's "policy of quiet that enabled Hamas to undergo massive military buildup". — AFP

Trump announces direct nuclear talks with Iran

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump said the United States was starting direct, high-level talks with Iran over its nuclear programme on Saturday, in a shock announcement during a White House meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

On Monday in the Oval Office, Trump expressed hope of reaching a deal with Tehran but warned that the Islamic republic would be in "great danger" if the talks failed.

Hours later, Tehran confirmed that discussions were set for Saturday in Oman but

stressed that they were "indirect" talks.

"It is as much an opportunity as it is a test. The ball is in America's court," said Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi.

Trump did not say where the talks would take place but insisted that they would not involve surrogates and would be at "almost the highest level".

His announcement came a day after Iran dismissed direct negotiations on a new deal to curb the country's nuclear programme, calling the idea "pointless".

He pulled out of the last deal in 2018 during his first presidency and there has been widespread speculation that Israel, possibly with US help, might attack Iranian facilities if no new agreement is reached.

Officials said Russia, China and Iran were due to hold consultations on the Iranian nuclear issue in Moscow.

In a separate development, Netanyahu said the United States and Israel are working on another deal to free hostages from Gaza. — AFP



SHOW OF SUPPORT... Activists of the Markazi Muslim League party in Karachi expressing solidarity with the Palestinian people on Monday. — AFP/ICC

COMMENT by Dr Shahrul Azman Abd Razak

Designing cities with greener blueprint

IN Riyadh, 98% of daily trips are made using private vehicles. In contrast, Berlin sees 70% of its trips completed without cars, with people choosing to walk, cycle or use public transport. While it is easy to blame the heat, the real issue lies not in the climate but in the design.

Cities like Cairo, Riyadh and Dubai are built for cars. Cairo's average one-way commute is 48 minutes, and only 17% of Dubai's residents walk daily. Meanwhile, cities like Berlin (30%), London (25%), and New York (40%) show that walkability is possible through thoughtful planning, not by chance.

Malaysia faces a similar challenge. In cities such as Kuala Lumpur, Johor Bahru and Penang, car dependency has become the norm. According to the World Bank, over 93% of Malaysian households own at least one car, with many owning two.

While public transport is expanding, it is still seen as inconvenient. Walking and cycling remain unsafe or impractical due to poor infrastructure, narrow sidewalks, faded crossings and a lack of shade. In many areas, simply choosing to walk feels uncomfortable, if not impossible.

Hidden costs of car dependency

At first glance, car-centric cities may seem efficient, with wide highways and ample parking creating an illusion of convenience. However, the hidden costs are substantial. Long commutes, common in cities like Kuala Lumpur, increase stress, reduce family time and lower productivity.

Car dependency also isolates communities, limiting mobility for those without vehicles and weakening social interaction and local economies. Streets built for cars discourage walking, which can negatively impact public health.

In areas where walking is rare, obesity rates are up to 30% higher. Malaysia already records the highest obesity rate in Southeast Asia and our urban design is a contributing factor.

When walking becomes inconvenient or unsafe, active lifestyles decline, leading to increased risks of diabetes, heart disease and other chronic illnesses.

The result? Higher healthcare costs and a reduced quality of life. Cities must shift towards people-first designs to promote health, inclusion and overall urban well-being.

Not culture but planning

A common argument in Malaysia is that our climate makes walking impractical. With temperatures often soaring above 33°C and humidity at 80%, who would want to walk?

However, this is not unique to Malaysia. Singapore, with a climate similar to Malaysia's, has succeeded in encouraging walkability and public transport usage.

The difference lies in thoughtful urban planning where shaded walkways, connected public transport, proper signage and pedestrian-friendly zoning are provided to the public. The climate is not the barrier but poor design is.

Good city planning makes walking not only possible but attractive. It encourages the creation of mixed-use neighbourhoods, where homes, shops, schools and workplaces are within walking distance.

It means designing shaded, tree-lined streets, installing seating and ensuring safe crossings. A people-focused design does not eliminate cars but it ensures they do not dominate.

Role of municipal councils

While federal initiatives like the MRT (mass rapid transit), LRT (light rapid transit) and BRT (bus rapid transit) projects in the Klang Valley are steps in the right direction, the real agents of change are at the local level, namely our municipal councils.

Local governments hold the key to shaping urban life. They oversee zoning, local road design, public spaces, pedestrian walkways and local enforcement.

Decisions about whether a community is walkable, has trees or benches or prioritises vehicles over people are all made at the municipal level.

Yet, in many Malaysian cities, planning decisions continue to

"Mobility should not be about how fast we drive but how well we live. Walkable, green and inclusive cities are not luxuries but they are essential for a sustainable and thriving society."



Singapore, with a climate similar to Malaysia's, has succeeded in encouraging walkability and public transport usage. — REUTERSPIC

prioritise the convenience of vehicles over the comfort and safety of pedestrians. Sidewalks are narrow or obstructed, public spaces are sparse and zoning laws continue to separate residential, commercial and industrial areas, forcing people to drive even short distances.

For a truly liveable Malaysia, municipal councils must take a more active and people-centric role. This includes:

- Building better walkways and bike lanes with safe crossings and continuous paths.
- Planting more shade trees along pedestrian routes.
- Redesigning public spaces for comfort, shade and community use.
- Supporting mixed-use zoning to reduce travel distances.
- Improving last-mile connectivity to and from public transport.
- Involving communities in urban planning decisions.

A better future starts with better design
Malaysia is now more urbanised than ever, with over 75% of its population living in cities — a figure that will only grow.

The real question is: Will we continue building cities that isolate, pollute and exhaust us or will we design places that foster connection, health and well-being?

The good news is that transformation is possible. Global cities have reimagined their futures through vision and political will.

Copenhagen, once car-dominated, is now among the world's most bike-friendly cities. Seoul removed an inner-city highway to revive a river and public space. If they can do it, so can we.

We must shift our mindset. Mobility should not be about how fast we drive but how well we live. Walkable, green and inclusive cities are not luxuries but they are essential for a sustainable and thriving society.

As urbanist Jan Gehl said: "A good city is like a good party, you stay because you are enjoying yourself".

Let us make Malaysian cities worth staying in.

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MOST presidents of the United States seek to build. Donald Trump seeks only to do the opposite – ironically, given his history as a prominent property developer.

In the circumstances, announcing a series of devastating differential “reciprocal” tariffs on the US’s major trading partners in the charming environs of the White House Rose Garden seemed rather incongruous.

Then again, as the true enormity of what is at hand became clear, the wind got up and there was a sense of a storm coming. That was far more fitting.

His first days in office were marked by wild executive orders inflicted on the federal government and on the constitution of the United States.

His whirlwind continues – although the defeat of a Trumpian judge in an election in Wisconsin is perhaps a small sign that the US is growing weary of the efforts of the president and his noisy Svengali, Elon Musk.

In the name of what seems a futile search for peace in Ukraine, the president has also applied his nihilism to the US’s traditional alliances, not least Nato, where he has chosen to abuse friends and allies while simultaneously flattering and appeasing Russian President Vladimir Putin.

To astonishment, the US has told former partners, from Canada to Ukraine to Japan, that the US no longer has a strategic interest in their survival as independent sovereign states, and in any case no longer shares their values. Matters are now purely transactional.

The international rules-based order that took eight decades to construct and won the Cold War has been comprehensively abandoned within 80 days of Trump’s inauguration, exceeding even the

COMMENT

Global trade rules collapsing

“Decades of painstaking work to grow international trade and establish a rules-based system eventually overseen by the World Trade Organisation are being undone by the stroke of a presidential Sharpie.”

worst of fears. It is scarcely believable, but tragically true that the president seeks to annex Greenland and absorb Canada.

The result has been to plunge the US and the world into a state of permanent crisis. Having tested the fabric of American political life and the international order, the president is now rapidly reaching the final stages in dismantling the post-war economic order, too.

As with the military and diplomatic alliances that protected the US and its partners for so long, so too with the institutions and policies that helped propel the world to unprecedented progress and prosperity.

Decades of painstaking work to grow international trade and establish a rules-based system eventually overseen by the World Trade Organisation are being undone by the stroke of a presidential Sharpie. It is a revolution, and it has already wrought chaos in financial markets and the corporate world.

In the space of less than one hour, interspersed with the usual rambling digressions, Trump visited enormous economic hardship on what he would

call “friend and foe” alike.

China, predictably, came in for the most vindictive treatment – a blanket tariff of 34%, but the EU, scrambling to defend itself from Russia, has been whacked with a 20% tax. The British, let off with a 10% charge, need not feel too smug – the global trade slowdown will trigger to hit the UK’s feeble growth prospects hard.

With his much-trumpeted “Liberation Day” tariff announcement, Trump seeks nothing less than the reversal of globalisation and the disruption of highly efficient integrated supply chains and markets in the name of a senseless zero-sum economic nationalism.

All the lessons of history and practical economics are abandoned in the cause of crude protectionism – specifically mercantilism, in which politicians such as Trump, rather than markets, determine what is made where and by whom.

Trump, a child of his times whose formative years were marked by the rise of German and Japanese industrial power, seeks to return the US to its status as a great manufacturing nation, even though other nations build cars and make

steel better and more cheaply. It is a fundamentally atavistic vision of the US’s economic future, and it will serve Americans badly.

So far from being the disaster zone he so often describes, the US as a whole has never had it so good. Its economy has lately been growing strongly, and in most places living standards are high and rising. The problem has been the lack of care and attention given to the casualties of globalisation.

Trump blames foreigners – who else? – for the dislocations caused and sincerely believes, absurdly, that the US can be self-sufficient in almost everything.

Early on in his first term, he wrote “Trade is bad” on the top of a draft speech for an international economic summit. That simple and simplistic belief is the key to what is befalling the global economy now.

“America First” is becoming “America Only”, which may be fine for Americans if it was true. But, unlike the world of real estate deals, trade need not be a zero-sum game. Just as the gradual easing of trade restrictions drove productivity and economic growth higher, so it is also the grim

historical experience that no one wins trade wars, and they can lead to real wars.

Tariffs will make Americans poorer and make businesses less competitive, and the retaliation by the EU, China and others will cut off valuable export markets, particularly for farmers and the oil industry.

The import taxes cannot simultaneously yield the vast revenues predicted by Trump – paid if goods are still imported in the same volumes – and restore US jobs, if there is no change in consumer behaviour and no switching of purchases to buy American, which means lower imports and tariff revenues.

As things stand, it seems too late to try to reason with Trump. The only hope is that out of chaos will emerge a new order and, through negotiations, the US and its major trading partners can end up with tariffs that are lower than before.

Restraint is required if tit-for-tat tariffs are not to escalate to absurd and catastrophically damaging levels. There is a slim chance that a global trade recession can be avoided and even that a new settlement can benefit all sides.

At the conclusion of his remarks, the president hinted that this initiative could be the beginning of a more benign process of tariff reduction. Certainly, something akin to the peace process that follows a real war will be needed to restore order. – **The Independent**

COMMENT by Sheila Ramalingam

Reclaiming right to disconnect from work

IN today’s fast-paced world, the pressure to perform at work has become relentless. Employees in Malaysia are experiencing increasing levels of stress, exacerbated by an increasingly digitalised world that has made it easier than ever to stay connected.

While technology has undoubtedly improved efficiency and communication, it has also blurred the lines between work and personal life.

Technological advances have created a situation where employees are constantly accessible, allowing organisations to maintain control over them even during their supposed downtime. This intrusion into personal space has led to more work-life interference, affecting mental health and overall well-being.

The ability to reach an employee at any time – through emails, texts or work-related apps – was once seen as a convenience. However, it has now morphed into an expectation.

Employers assume that because technology enables instant communication, employees should always be available. The result? Workers find themselves tethered to their jobs 24/7, unable to truly disconnect, even during after-work hours, weekends, vacations or family gatherings.

Prolonged exposure to high-pressure work environments can lead to severe consequences, including burnout, anxiety disorders and even physical ailments such as high blood pressure and heart disease.

The issue goes beyond individual suffering; it impacts organisations as well. Stressed employees are less productive, more prone to errors and more likely to take sick leave or quit their jobs.

The legal landscape in Malaysia currently offers limited protection for employees suffering from work-induced mental health issues.

Unlike some common law jurisdictions, Malaysia has yet to recognise psychiatric harm caused by occupational stress as an actionable claim.

The existing statutory framework, including the Occupational Safety and Health Act 1994 and the Employment Act 1955, focuses primarily on physical safety, leaving mental health concerns inadequately addressed.

However, legal precedents from other countries suggest that employers have a duty of care towards their employees’ mental well-being.

Landmark cases in the United Kingdom, such as Walker v Northumberland County Council and

Hatton v Sutherland, have established that an employer can be held liable in tort if psychiatric injury due to workplace stress was foreseeable and preventable. These cases highlight the need for a balanced approach, one that considers both employer obligations and employee resilience.

Employers must recognise that an overworked, mentally drained workforce is neither sustainable nor productive.

Steps must be taken to ensure that work does not encroach on employees’ personal lives. Some measures include:

🔴 **Setting clear boundaries:** Establishing a policy where employees are not expected to respond to emails or messages outside of work hours or when on leave.

🔴 **Encouraging time off:** Ensuring that employees can fully disconnect during leave without fear of being penalised.

🔴 **Workload management:** Reviewing deadlines and expectations to ensure they are realistic and achievable without excessive overtime.

🔴 **Mental health support:** Providing access to counselling services and mental health programmes within the workplace.

Malaysia must take decisive steps



While technology has undoubtedly improved efficiency and communication, it has also blurred the lines between work and personal life. – **SUNPIC**

towards recognising and addressing workplace stress as a serious issue.

Legislative reforms should be introduced to include mental health protections under existing employment laws.

The expectation that employees should be constantly available is neither fair nor sustainable.

If organisations want a productive and engaged workforce, they must prioritise employees’ mental well-being.

It is time for employees to reclaim the right to disconnect and restore the balance between work and life. Only then can we build a healthier, more resilient workforce for the future.

Sheila Ramalingam is the deputy executive director of Universiti Malaya Centre of Leadership and Professional Development and senior lecturer at the Faculty of Law, Universiti Malaya. Comments: letters@thesunday.com

Sime Motors partners with CompAsia to tackle e-waste

KUALA LUMPUR: An automotive player, Sime Motors has partnered with CompAsia, Southeast Asia's provider of device circularity solutions, to address the growing issue of electronic waste (e-waste) as part of its shared commitment to environmental responsibility.

This initiative focuses on promoting responsible disposal and recycling of e-waste, which will extend to Sime Motors' operations in Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia.

With an increase in e-waste, the collaboration provides a responsible solution for employees and customers to dispose old electronic devices. Participants can exchange their used devices for cash or discounts on new purchases through a trade-in programme.

Additionally, the partnership aims to raise awareness about extending the life cycle of devices, encouraging customers to consider refurbished options.

This contributes to the circular economy and ultimately reduces the environmental impact of e-waste going to landfill.

Sime Motors Southeast Asia managing director, Jeffrey Gan said: "The partnership with CompAsia provides a hassle-free experience to our employees and customers, making it easier to dispose old devices responsibly while promoting the circular economy across our Southeast Asia operations. The increase in e-waste has grown to an alarming rate, and as an organisation, we aim to address this and drive positive change."

CompAsia chief strategy officer, George Hashim said: "Sime Motors is one of the most established brands across Southeast Asia and we are honoured to join forces through collective efforts toward a greener, more connected future. We believe that our innovative approach to extending the life cycle of devices together with Sime Motors' leadership will greatly influence consumers to make choices that help preserve our planet."

This partnership builds on Sime Motors' ongoing environmental stewardship efforts.

Moving forward, the collaboration will coincide with the roll out of several initiatives, including corporate social responsibility (CSR) projects, device trade-in programmes and awareness campaigns focused on e-waste reduction.

Through dedicated CSR efforts, decommissioned electronic devices that meet quality standards will be donated to an underserved community in Malaysia, prolonging the devices' life cycle toward a robust circular economy.

Sime Motors and CompAsia aim to provide practical solutions that help customers and employees contribute to the circular economy.

The partnership focuses on raising awareness about the growing issue of e-waste and encouraging responsible device disposal.

Diolko targets 80% carbon emissions reduction

➤ Company integrating public transport and EVs into its delivery network

■ BY AIMIE SHAZRIE
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PETALING JAYA: Local logistics company, Diolko Logistics Malaysia Sdn Bhd, is making strides in sustainable logistics by integrating public transportation and electric vehicles (EVs) into its delivery network.

The company has already demonstrated a 70% reduction in carbon emissions during its pilot phase and aims to push the figure to 80% through strategic expansion and operational optimisation.

CEO and co-founder Yoann Gueguen, chief operating officer and co-founder Onno Pfeiffer both said that Diolko employs a data-driven approach to measure its environmental impact, tracking key performance indicators such as carbon emissions, fuel consumption, and delivery efficiency.

"By aligning with international reporting standards, including the Global Logistics Emissions Council (GLEC) framework, ISO 14083, and the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol, the company ensures transparency and credibility in our sustainability reporting," they told *SunBiz*.

They said, through the collaboration with Prasarana Malaysia Bhd from July 2024 to February 2025,

Diolko achieved a 70% reduction in carbon emissions across 3,000 deliveries.

"This success is attributed to the integration of two LRT lines for parcel transportation, coupled with the deployment of EVs for last-mile deliveries," they added.

Looking ahead, they noted that their recent ambitious plans to establish 15 additional hubs across the Klang Valley by 2027, will significantly increase its capacity to handle over 100,000 parcels monthly.

"This expansion aligns with the company's ambitious carbon reduction goals, with some regions expected to see emissions drop by as much as 80%.

"Diolko's commitment to green logistics also extends to its fleet, which consists entirely of electric vehicles, including eVans and eBikes. We continuously evaluate new EV models and alternative fuel vehicles to further enhance sustainability and reduce its carbon footprint," they explained.

Beyond emissions reduction, they said Diolko supports circular economy practices by utilising equal transport capacity in both directions along LRT routes, facilitating both delivery and pickup services.

"While packaging remains the



Pfeiffer (left) and Gueguen highlighted that Diolko's long-term vision includes expanding its logistics network beyond Malaysia.

responsibility of customers, the company provides guidance on sustainable packaging choices to encourage environmentally friendly practices.

"Employee well-being is also a priority. We are not only focusing on the 'environmental' part in environmental, social and governance (ESG), but Diolko also ensures safe working conditions, fair wages, and optimised delivery routes to avoid long return trips and minimise excessive overtime.

"By leveraging virtual hub technology, we assign efficient delivery routes that can be completed within a standard workday, promoting work-life balance for its drivers," they added.

They highlighted that Diolko's

long-term vision includes expanding its logistics network beyond Malaysia, with potential entry into major Southeast Asian cities such as Singapore and Hong Kong.

"We also plan to integrate other public transport networks locally, including the MRT, KTM, and KLIA Ekspres, to further enhance service coverage," they disclosed.

Gueguen and Pfeiffer said, to support the ambitious growth plans, Diolko is preparing for fundraising efforts through Seed and comparable investment rounds.

"These funds will drive the company's expansion, strengthen its technological capabilities, and accelerate its mission to revolutionise urban logistics through green solutions," they added.

FGV sets benchmarks in talent management

KUALA LUMPUR: FGV Holdings Bhd (FGV), a global agribusiness company, continues to set benchmarks in talent management through a comprehensive and inclusive approach aligned with its sustainability goals.

FGV group chief human capital officer Razman Radzi said the company's talent management strategy is closely linked to its sustainability commitments and efforts to drive community development.

"At FGV, our talent management strategy is deeply intertwined with our sustainability goals and commitment to community development.

"By investing in our people through innovative programmes and fostering an inclusive, high-performance culture, we not only empower individuals but also contribute to the nation's socioeconomic progress," he said in a recent statement.

Meanwhile, FGV group CEO Fakhrunniam Othman said the company's talent management approach focuses on long-term value creation by building a resilient and future-ready organisation.

"By aligning talent management

with our core business goals, we strengthen operational excellence and drive sustainable growth.

"This integrated approach ensures that 'Warga FGV' are not only empowered to excel but also contribute meaningfully to the company's performance and competitiveness," he said.

As part of its strategic talent development efforts, FGV has implemented various initiatives to build a strong pipeline of skilled workers, integrating Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles while empowering local communities through targeted recruitment and capacity-building programmes.

The company's scholarship programme has supported 121 scholars since its inception in 2006, with several recipients now holding senior management positions.

The company has also introduced Projek Rintis, in collaboration with the Institute of Malaysian Plantation and Commodities, Malaysia's first talent development programme specifically for harvesters in the palm oil industry, aiming to equip Malaysian youth with industry-

specific skills, enhance employability, reduce reliance on foreign labour, and foster sustainable growth.

To ensure continuous learning at all levels, FGV has introduced certification programmes such as the FGV Accountant Certification Programme (ACe) and targeted training courses, including Industrial Relations for Non-HR Managers.

In its efforts to attract and retain top talent, FGV participated in 23 career fairs nationwide in 2024 and established partnerships with organisations such as the Johor Talent Development Council to strengthen its talent pipeline.

The company's Management Trainee Programme provides young graduates with an accelerated transition into the workforce, with many participants continuing to build their careers within FGV.

As part of its commitment to diversity and inclusion, FGV collaborates with LeadWomen to promote gender equality, achieving a 28% score in the Gender Gap Analysis Tool, above Malaysia's national average of 27.2%.

The company has also introduced Gender Diversity in Senior

Management Policy and celebrated key milestones, including appointing its first female Mill Manager.

FGV's commitment to talent management has yielded measurable results, with employee engagement reaching 81% in 2023, surpassing national averages, and certification programmes directly enhancing workforce productivity.

The company's retention strategies have been effective, with turnover rates dropping from 3.44% in 2022 to 2.45% in 2023.

As an employer of choice, FGV has earned prestigious accolades, including Kincentric Best Employer Malaysia 2023 and the National Human Capital Conference and Exhibition 2024 Best Employer Award, while its group chief human capital officer has been recognised among Asia's top HR leaders by ETHRWorld, SpeakIn Asia Dialogues, and World HRD Congress.

"FGV's holistic talent management approach demonstrates our commitment to building a sustainable future, not only for our business and our people but also for the communities we touch," said Fakhrunniam. — Bernama



Abandoned housing projects worth RM98.9b revived

➤ **Minister: Total of 1,016 developments brought back to life since establishment of dedicated task force**

BY **AMIE SHAZRIE**
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PETALING JAYA: The Housing and Local Government Ministry has revived a staggering RM98.96 billion worth of abandoned housing projects, marking a significant milestone in Malaysia's push to restore investor confidence and uplift the construction sector.

Minister Nga Kor Ming said that 1,016 abandoned housing projects comprising 122,083 units have been brought back to life since the establishment of the Task Force on Sick and Abandoned Private Housing Projects in late 2022.

"The ministry's proactive approach, through tighter coordination with developers, financial institutions, and local authorities, has not only accelerated project recovery but also helped stabilise the broader property market, offering renewed assurance to both domestic and foreign investors," he said at the International Strata Symposium 2025 yesterday.

Nga disclosed that the ministry is preparing to introduce a new Act focused solely on the property management industry, a sector currently regulated only as a subset of broader laws.

"With just 594 licensed property management firms serving over 2.9 million strata units nationwide, the upcoming legislation is expected to fill a critical vacuum and create a more professional, accountable strata management ecosystem.

"This will be a game-changer," he said, noting that unregulated and inexperienced joint management bodies have become a root cause of poor building maintenance, disputes, and resident dissatisfaction.

Furthermore, he noted that the ministry has stepped up regulatory enforcement.

"As of March 2024, 109 developers have



Nga (third from right), Rehda Institute president Datuk Ho Hon Seng (second from left) and Rehda Institute chairman Ng Tiong Lip (third from left) at the launch of the Abandoned Housing Report published by the Real Estate and Housing Developers' Association Malaysia.

been blacklisted, with RM10.28 million in compound fines issued for non-compliance with Housing Development Act provisions. This sends a clear message: we will no longer tolerate developers who fail their obligations.

"The blacklist, which is publicly accessible via the National Housing Department's portal, is part of KPKT's (ministry's) broader effort to improve transparency and accountability in the housing sector," he said.

Positioning Malaysia as a forward-looking leader in sustainable development, Nga announced that the country is bidding for a seat on the executive board of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), a key global body shaping the future of urbanisation.

"As current Chair of the Asean Ministerial Meeting on Housing and Urban Development, Malaysia is not only influencing regional policy but also seeking a stronger voice at the international table.

"Malaysia's urban population is expected to reach 88% by 2050, making global

collaboration and innovation essential.

"Malaysia is ready to contribute to the world's urban future – from smart cities to inclusive housing policies," Nga said, adding that participation in global platforms would allow Malaysia to export its policy ideas, attract partnerships, and benchmark against world-class standards.

Malaysia is future to contribute to the world's urban future, from smart cities to inclusive housing policies, he said.

"Our participation in global platforms will help us share our policy ideas, form new partnerships, and align with world-class standards.

"At the ministry, we are aiming to table the Urban Renewal Act or *Akta Pembaharuan Semula Bandar* this June. The bill consists of four key elements – urban redevelopment, urban regeneration, urban revitalisation and urban conservation.

"Our utmost priority is to ensure a structured and inclusive approach to development, in line with our principle of 'leave no one behind,'" Nga said.

'Asean must move up semicon value chain – together'

KUALA LUMPUR: Asean's semiconductor market has the potential to exceed US\$52 billion (RM233.3 billion) by 2032 by moving up the value chain, according to Finance Minister II Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan.

He said that to grow the region's semiconductor market, which stood at over US\$31 billion in 2023, Asean must look beyond volume and towards value.

"That means moving up the value chain – into front-end design, fabrication, and intellectual property development – so that Asean is not merely a place where innovation is assembled, but where innovation begins," Amir Hamzah said in his opening address at a panel discussion on "A Nation That Creates Through Catalysing Ecosystems", one of the Asean side events (finance track) held here.

The event was held in conjunction with the 12th Asean Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting and related meetings.

Amir Hamzah said no nation achieves that coveted position alone.

"Taiwan didn't rise through talent alone, and the United States didn't lead through capital alone. It was ecosystems – cohesive, coordinated, and supported – that made the difference.

"Asean must do the same, and we must do it together," the minister said.

Amir Hamzah said the grouping holds immense potential to shape the next chapter of the global semiconductor story as it possesses deep industrial capabilities, a growing base of skilled engineers, increasingly sophisticated innovation hubs, and access to some of the world's most dynamic consumer and enterprise markets.

"Asean's strength lies not in doing the same thing everywhere – but in doing complementary things together. With the right coordination, we can transform Asean into an integrated, agile, and future-ready semiconductor powerhouse," he said.

However, he said Asean must be clear-eyed about the headwinds.

"The global realignment of supply chains driven by rising geopolitical tensions and protectionist trade policies is reshaping global trade and production models," he said.

Amir Hamzah said the recent US announcement to impose "reciprocal" tariffs on countries with trade surpluses, including a 24% tariff on Malaysian exports, is not an isolated development but part of a broader shift toward more inward-looking policies.

For Asean, he said, the move is an inflection point – one that calls for clarity, coordination, and collective resolve.

"Asean's best response is not to retreat into protectionism, but to advance through integration," he said.

On another note, Amir Hamzah said Asean has produced more than 10 unicorns with a combined value exceeding US\$34 billion since 2012.

However, he said, the region's startup ecosystem still suffers from uneven access to funding, fragmented markets and limited scaling support.

"If semiconductors are the hardware of the future economy, then startups are its operating system driving agility, adaptability, and innovation. But bold ideas don't scale in isolation. To thrive, startups need the infrastructure of opportunity: clear rules, open markets, trusted networks, and institutions that grow with them, not around them," he added. – Bernama

Transition finance key to low-carbon future, says Bursa chairman

KUALA LUMPUR: Transition finance is essential in driving Malaysia's shift towards a low-carbon economy, said Bursa Malaysia chairman Tan Sri Abdul Wahid Omar.

He said transition finance serves as a bridge that empowers traditionally high-carbon industries to shift towards sustainable business models.

"These include hard-to-abate industries like steel, cement and chemicals, which, while fundamental to the economy, are major contributors to the environmental footprint," he said in a pre-recorded speech at the National Climate Governance Summit here yesterday.

Transition finance refers to investments that support high-emission sectors like energy and manufacturing to gradually shift towards low-carbon, sustainable operations.

Abdul Wahid said around 20% of Malaysia's economy is tied to high-emission sectors.

"The metal industry alone generates 23 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions, while the chemical and cement industries contribute nine million tonnes and 18 million pounds, respectively. The waste sector, meanwhile, emits 57 million pounds.

"Collectively, these sectors accounted for 32% of the country's emissions in 2019," he said.

He warned that without robust and targeted transition finance, these sectors will face difficulties in decarbonising and maintaining economic viability.

Abdul Wahid also cited findings by the International Renewable Energy Agency, which estimates that Asean will require US\$29.4 trillion (RM131.9 trillion) to fund its

energy transition by 2050.

"Disasters such as floods and extreme weather continue to disrupt economies and communities, with Southeast Asia experiencing more than 75 million internal displacements due to extreme weather events over the past decade," he said.

Abdul Wahid also said that despite its importance, transition finance still faces significant challenges due to limited financial incentives and technological uncertainties.

"Addressing these challenges requires a concerted effort from policymakers, regulators, financial institutions and businesses.

"Simply put, the clearer we define and support transition finance, the faster we can mobilise the necessary investments, which is critical to achieving a low-carbon future," he said. – Bernama


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Businesses must report income even if hit by losses

➤ Don't worry, this does not necessarily mean you will be taxed, Inland Revenue Board official assures company owners

KUALA LUMPUR: Business owners are required to report their income even if they suffer losses, said the Kuala Lumpur Inland Revenue Board principal assistant director Syed Mohd Syukree Syed Mohd Kamil.

He said many taxpayers mistakenly believe they are not required to submit or report their income if their business incurs a loss.

"That's a common misconception. Business losses are normal. Regardless of whether your business makes a profit or suffers a loss, you are still obligated to submit and report your income annually," he said.

He assured that taxpayers should not worry if their business is operating at a loss, as this does not necessarily mean they will be taxed.

"However, if you also earn other income, such as a salary, your total income will be assessed under Form B (Tax Income Declaration Form for individuals running a business). In such cases, taxation may still apply based on the combined income," he said.

Syed Mohd Syukree said this during the Bernama Radio Tax Clinic programme on the topic "Business Profit or Loss: Required to Submit Form B".

According to him, individuals considered to be running a business include YouTubers, Instagram personalities, influencers, or anyone earning income from paid reviews, essentially, anyone who receives payment for their content or services.

Failing to report such income within the stipulated period is a criminal offence and can lead to legal action, he said.

Under Section 112(1) of the Income Tax Act 1967, failure to submit an income tax return form may result in a fine ranging from RM200 to RM20,000 or imprisonment for up to six months, or both, upon conviction.

Non-compliance, Syed Mohd Syukree said, may also trigger a tax audit, which involves a detailed review of all business transactions and financial documents.

"This process can be complex, time-consuming, and may negatively impact both the reputation and financial standing of the business. To avoid this, you can begin reporting your income via Form B or e-B on the MyTax Portal from March 1 to July 15," he advised.

For a smoother annual income reporting process, Syed Mohd Syukree recommended

that business owners maintain proper tax records for at least seven years, which include financial statements, bank records, cash flow documentation, supplier invoices, and sales invoices issued to customers.

He said only expenses directly related to the business are eligible for tax claims.

"You must be able to clearly distinguish between business and personal expenses to avoid mistakes when submitting and reporting your income," he said.

He explained that fulfilling income reporting obligations not only ensures compliance with tax laws but also enhances a business's credibility and reputation in the eyes of customers, investors, and regulatory authorities.

"This demonstrates your commitment to operating a legitimate and responsible business," he added.

Furthermore, individuals who comply with tax requirements are more likely to benefit from government incentives and exemptions, such as sector-specific investment incentives, research and development grants, and support facilities tailored for small and medium-sized enterprises.

"Regular tax compliance also allows the government to offer meaningful support to businesses, including training programmes, micro-financing schemes, and technical assistance, all of which can contribute to business growth and increased competitiveness," he said. - Bernama

PHB: 2.5 sen interim income distribution for Amanah Hartanah Bumiputera

KUALA LUMPUR: Pelaburan Hartanah Bhd (PHB) and PHB Asset Management Bhd (PHBAM) have announced an interim income distribution of 2.5 sen per unit for its syariah-compliant unit trust, Amanah Hartanah Bumiputera (AHB), for the six-month period ended March 31, 2025.

The distribution comprises a basic income of 2.05 sen and a bonus of 0.45 sen per unit. The bonus, funded by PHB as AHB's sponsor, is payable for the first one million units held by each unitholder.

"A total of RM116.3 million will be distributed to approximately 82,000 unitholders, bringing AHB's cumulative income distribution since its inception in 2010 to RM2.31 billion," the joint statement added.

The income distribution will be paid in cash or AHB units (for unitholders holding fewer than 10,000 units) and credited directly to unitholders' bank accounts or AHB accounts on April 14.

The PHB group also highlighted that income distributions are net of zakat and exempt from tax, as PHB and AHB have made provisions for zakat, which will be remitted to the relevant authorities.

Through this zakat payment, AHB unitholders contribute to the welfare of the *asnaf* groups, the statement noted.

Recently, PHB Group reported its strongest financial performance to date, achieving a net profit of RM117.2 million for the financial year 2024, more than triple the RM31.7 million recorded in the previous year. This growth was driven by a recovery in the retail sector, strong property-related income from enhanced asset management strategies, and contributions from newly completed PHB assets. - Bernama

CGS launches Malaysia's first fractional share trading platform

KUALA LUMPUR: CGS International Securities Malaysia Sdn Bhd aims to register 10,000 users for its newly launched fractional share trading platform, UP, which serves as Malaysia's first fractional trading platform on Bursa Malaysia encouraging young and low-income individuals to invest in the capital market.

Its deputy CEO Khairi Shahrin Arief Baki said the platform offers a huge potential targeting university students and low-income individuals to invest a minimum of US\$1

(RM4.48) per month.

"We feel that there's a market for it (UP) and now the university students and the low-income people have the accessibility now to enter into the market easily," he told Bernama after the launching of UP in conjunction to the Asean Investment Conference here yesterday.

The application also fulfils the aspiration for greater capital market access announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim

under the Malaysia Madani Economy Framework.

"Fractional share trading is nothing new actually, but in Malaysia, it has never been done before, so we would like to promote Bursa Malaysia in this initiative as well.

"We feel some social responsibility both to the community as well as to Bursa Malaysia by promoting Bursa shares, hence investors can start investing with the top 30 listed companies," he said.

China, Japan, South Korea meet on sidelines of Asean event in KL

KUALA LUMPUR: China, Japan and South Korea, which have signalled alliances since the announcement of sweeping US tariffs, held their second trilateral meeting in just eight days after their first engagement this year, reflecting the urgency as Washington's move has caused ripple effects globally.

The meeting among the three economic powerhouses on March 30 came under the spotlight after the US President announced a baseline tariff of 10% on all countries, with higher duties for some, including China, which now faces a 34% tariff on imports, and Japan, hit with a 24% duty.

As for South Korea, it is bidding to lower the 25% tariff rate.

It is understood the meeting raised concerns over the global and their respective economic outlooks, as tariff policies such as this hurt trade, business and consumer confidence, and ultimately strain diplomatic ties.

Global markets took a rout on

Monday, reportedly wiping out more than US\$10 trillion (RM44.8 trillion) from major markets. The Malaysian bourse reportedly lost RM93.15 billion in market capitalisation.

The trilateral meeting, held on the sidelines of the 12th Asean Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting, saw the attendance of China's Vice Minister of Finance, Liao Min; Japan's Vice Minister of Finance, Atsushi Mimura; and South Korea's Deputy Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Choi Jiyoung.

The three leaders were also expected to attend two sessions of the Asean+3 Finance and Central Bank Deputies Meeting (AFCDM+3) yesterday.

This latest US move is expected to raise the total duties on Chinese goods to 54% this year, while for South Korea, the Trump administration's global reciprocal tariffs chart shows a 25% rate.

In response, China has fired

back with retaliatory tariffs of 34% on all US imports, effective April 10, according to international media reports.

The +3 economies had previously convened in late March and hinted at a joint response to the escalating tariff tensions.

The meeting marked the first economic dialogue in five years among the three Asian export powerhouses, who are seeking to bolster regional trade amid mounting US protectionism.

At the March 30 meeting in Seoul, China, Japan and South Korea reaffirmed their commitment to trilateral economic and trade cooperation to tackle "emerging challenges" - a partnership now seen as increasingly vital in light of the US measures that have sparked fears of a global trade war.

The three nations also agreed to accelerate negotiations on a trilateral free trade agreement, though concrete progress remains elusive. - Bernama



Bank Negara Malaysia deputy governor Adnan Zaylani (third left) delivering a talk during a forum session on "Inclusive Financial Well-Being: The Role of Financial Capability and Social Finance", moderated by Aban Haq, head of Member Engagement and Project Management Office at the Alliance for Financial Inclusion, held in conjunction with the 12th Asean Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting 2025 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre yesterday. - BERNAMAPIC

'Something new and exciting' is in the air

► Malaysian Aviation Group says will make announcement at Matta Fair, hints at new routes or higher frequencies of existing ones

SEPANG: Malaysian Aviation Group (MAG) will announce "something new and exciting" at the Malaysian Association of Tour and Travel Agents (Matta) Fair scheduled for April 18-20.

Its chief commercial officer of Airlines Dersenihs Aresandiran hinted at the possibility of new routes or increased frequencies for existing ones.

"It would be something really interesting. So besides the promotions on the existing routes, there'll be something new for customers," he said at a press conference yesterday on MAG's return as Matta Fair's official airline partner and premier sponsor.

Dersenihs said MAG will offer 15% of its seat capacity across various routes under promotional fares at the three-day fair to be held at the Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre (Mitec), Kuala Lumpur.

He said Malaysia Airlines will

offer fare discounts of up to 30% across its international and regional network while Firefly will roll out domestic fares starting from RM59 all in.

Additionally, MAG will offer a 15% discount on ancillary products such as seat selection, meals, and baggage.

"Beyond fares, Enrich members can look forward to a 48-hour early bird sale beginning April 15, which allows them to enjoy an extra 5% discount on top of existing deals, along with bonus points for bookings made in advance," he added.

Dersenihs said MAG will present its full suite of offerings through a dedicated MAG Pavilion spread across more than 70 booths. Visitors can expect attractive deals from Malaysia Airlines, Firefly, MASwings, AMAL, Enrich, JourneyFi, and MH Holidays.

"This year we will probably show a lot more virtual reality - that

immersive experience in terms of looking at destinations. It's not just a booth to see our products. It's also a space to interact and engage," he said, adding that customers will be able to win travel merchandise and access globally limited gifts.

Dersenihs also confirmed that several Manchester United Legends are expected to appear across all three days of the fair at the MAG Pavilion.

"Not one, not two - probably three or more. These are not just any former players. They are part of the Treble-winning squad under Sir Alex Ferguson. These are the legends of the legends," he said.

Dersenihs also highlighted MAG's strong performance on key routes over the past year, with Paris emerging as one of the group's top-performing destinations.

"There are also others which have been going up very well - Maldives, and interestingly in South Asia, we've seen a great pickup in routes like Trivandrum," he said.

He added that Firefly, MAG's subsidiary airline, also saw strong demand for domestic travel, contributing significantly to MAG's overall recovery and growth. - Bernama

TrueMoney Malaysia rolls out global transfers for businesses, e-wallet users

KUALA LUMPUR: TrueMoney Malaysia, part of the region-leading Ascend Money financial platform, yesterday launched its International Remittance (IR) services in Malaysia.

The new B2B and C2C service offering supports business payments (B2B), with a special focus on supporting corporate partners' import transactions. Consumers in Malaysia can also use the service to make retail (C2C) transfers.

With TrueMoney Remittance, Malaysians can now facilitate B2B transactions to all countries, offering particularly competitive rates in US Dollars (USD), Singapore Dollars (SGD), and Thai Baht (THB). For any C2C International Remittance transactions, TrueMoney e-wallet users can now also send money with ease to seven countries: Myanmar, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, India, Nepal, and Bangladesh.

These transactions are primarily focused on migrant workers' remittances, enabling them to conveniently send money back

home using the TrueMoney e-wallet. TrueMoney Malaysia commercial head Shaik Ikhwan (pix) said they are committed to advancing financial inclusion for all, particularly for underserved communities such as migrant workers.

With their latest offering, he added the International Remittance services aim to provide a seamless, reliable, and affordable way for consumers and businesses to send money across borders.

According to a Research and Markets analysis, Malaysia's international remittance market is experiencing significant growth in both inbound and outbound money transfers. The outbound remittance sector saw a 2.4% increase in 2023, reaching US\$9.35 billion (RM42 billion) in 2024. Over the next five years, it is expected to grow at a CAGR of 1.5%, projected to reach US\$9.93 billion by 2028.





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Proton e.MAS 7 still ahead of the pack

➤ Remains best-selling EV model in Malaysia, with 1,853 deliveries in Q1 2025

PETALING JAYA: Pro-Net, a subsidiary of national automaker Proton, yesterday reported that Proton e.MAS 7 has achieved a new cumulative delivery milestone of 1,853 units for the first quarter of 2025.

With 797 units sold in March, the year-to-date market share for the model is forecast to be 30%, cementing the Proton e.MAS 7 as Malaysia's No. 1

electric vehicle model.

Pro-Net CEO Zhang Qiang said, "We want to thank our customers for their unwavering support, and confidence in our Proton e.MAS 7 as well as trust that we can deliver an ecosystem that lets them enjoy their electrified driving experience. I also want to thank our dealers and partners for delivering an ecosystem that supports our customers' requirements. This achievement encourages us to improve ourselves to deliver products of higher quality and give our customers a better ownership experience."

Prices start from RM105,800 for the Prime and RM119,800 for the Premium variant.

The Proton e.MAS 7 is equipped

with the Aegis Short Blade Battery, which has gone through the industry's first "Six Extremes" serial test, and can withstand extreme heat, saltwater corrosion, frequent bottom scraping, overweight rolling, and side collision.

To ease the transition from internal combustion engine to EV, new owners now have access to over 2,300 public charging points (over 90% of public chargers) in Malaysia operated by Gentari, JomCharge, chargEV, DC Handal, Chargesini, Carput Zap, REXcharge and Charge+.

Furthermore, 75 DC charging points of up to 120kW are available at selected Proton, Proton e.MAS and smart dealerships. This gives e.MAS 7 owners more options when it comes to recharging their electric vehicle.

Moreover, the Proton e.MAS App makes accessing these charging points much easier by listing all charging point operators into a single Live Integrated Charging Map. The comprehensive charge map continues to expand, and owners are encouraged to keep the app updated to enjoy the latest coverage. The Proton e.MAS App, which also allows for easy payment of charging fees, is available on the Apple App Store and Google Play.

With the number of downloads increasing each day, Pro-Net recorded a total of 1,145 charging sessions conducted via the Proton e.MAS App over a period of three months.

"Our goal is not just to sell cars. We

want to nurture a complete ecosystem that not only includes 36 dealerships with DC charging points and after-sales service but also the entire Malaysian EV charging infrastructure. We're also working closely with CPOs (Charge Point Operators) to make EV ownership more convenient as we want our customers to have a seamless transition from ICE to EV, and enjoy their EV ownership experience," said Zhang.

Additionally, the Proton e.MAS 7 is gaining international recognition, starting with the EV SUV's debut in Nepal and will be launching soon in Trinidad and Tobago. In addition, the Proton e.MAS 7 is undergoing an epic road trip across the Asean region, starting, and finishing in Malaysia.

Labuan Food Industries makes waves as seafood exporter

LABUAN: Labuan Food Industries Sdn Bhd, a Malaysian fishery company with an established international business network, plans to nearly triple its annual finished tuna production next year with the setting up of a new facility here.

CEO Lee Wei Sheng said the Labuan-based company currently exports around 140 containers of finished tuna products annually. "With the completion of a new facility (this year), the company aims to increase its output to 400 containers by 2026.

"The expansion is further supported by its deep-sea fishing operations in the Indian and Pacific Oceans, which could boost production tenfold for the international market," he told Bernama in an interview.

Lee said the company has successfully penetrated the largest markets for seafood, Europe and United States, over the past 28 years, exporting a wide variety of tuna-based and other seafood products.

Among Labuan Food Industries' proudest achievements is becoming Malaysia's sole exporter of sashimi-grade tuna and the largest tuna buyer in Sabah.

"Our vision is to position Malaysia as a globally recognised player in the high-value tuna market, capturing a greater share of the RM200 billion global market," Lee said.

He said beyond tuna, the company also exports other seafood products each year, including 20 containers of mahi-mahi, 30 containers of sardines, 20 containers of octopuses, and 10 containers of squids.

Major export destinations include Europe, the United States, South America, Singapore, Australia, Brunei and China.

Lee said that Labuan and Sabah's strategic location in one of Malaysia's richest tuna-producing regions inspired the company's venture into the tuna industry.

He said Sabah leads the country in tuna



Lee presenting Labuan Food Industries' premium sashimi-grade tuna product at the company's office. — **BERNAMAPIC**

landings, making it an ideal base for scaling high-quality tuna exports.

"The global tuna market is worth about RM200 billion, with Europe, the US, and Asia consuming over 84% of the world's tuna. Sashimi-grade tuna is a premium product that requires strict compliance with food safety standards, something we've mastered to meet

the expectations of top-tier markets," Lee added.

He said Labuan Food Industries aims to continue playing a key role in modernising and empowering the local fishing community and promoting sustainable fishing practices, as well as placing Malaysia firmly on the international seafood map. — **Bernama**

APS Asia Pacific MRO centre in KL secures US FAA certification

PETALING JAYA: Aircraft Propeller Service (APS), a global leader in aircraft propeller maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO), has achieved an audit milestone for its upcoming maintenance centre in Kuala Lumpur, paving the way for its establishment as a premier regional MRO hub.

APS Asia Pacific has successfully completed a US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) audit and has received certification. This is a significant milestone as many national civil aviation regulators around the world recognise US FAA certification.

APS remains the only MRO in Asia and the Americas licensed to perform proprietary 568F propeller repairs under its agreement with Collins Aerospace, the propeller OEM.

The state-of-the-art Kuala Lumpur facility, slated to officially open in the coming months, will start with propeller maintenance for ATR 72 and Airbus C295 aircraft, but plans to expand its MRO capabilities over time.

The facility is strategically located in Malaysia to serve the rapidly expanding Asia-Pacific turboprop market. This region accounts for 37% of the global ATR fleet and is projected to require nearly 1,000 additional turboprop aircraft over the next two decades.

APS Asia Pacific managing director Fergus D Lopez said: "I am proud to acknowledge that our Asia-Pacific MRO operation's quality system is truly world-class. This achievement is a testament to our rigorous training programmes, exceptional procedures and processes, and a winning culture that drives excellence in everything we do."

Meanwhile, APS CEO Daniel Colbert said: "The Kuala Lumpur facility is an important step for APS and our Asia-Pacific customers. By establishing a dedicated MRO centre in this region, we aim to improve turnaround times and be closer to our customers. We're not just expanding our footprint — we're making a long-term commitment to this region."

He added that by combining their technical expertise with the skilled workforce in Malaysia, they are building a 'center of excellence' for propeller MRO that will support the evolving needs of turboprop operators for years to come.

Matrix Concepts unit acquires stakes in three firms for RM77.9 m

KUALA LUMPUR: Matrix Concepts Holdings Bhd's wholly owned subsidiary, MCHB Development (KV) Sdn Bhd, has entered into three separate share sale and purchase agreements for proposed acquisitions totalling RM77.9 million.

In a filing with Bursa Malaysia, Matrix Concepts stated that its unit acquired 625,000 ordinary shares, representing a 50% equity interest in Horizon L&L Sdn Bhd (HLLSB) from four vendors for a cash consideration of RM48.5 million.

The second deal involves the full acquisition of Exoland Property Management Sdn Bhd, comprising 10,000 ordinary shares from five

vendors for RM19.4 million in cash.

Additionally, MCHB Development acquired 225,000 ordinary shares, or a 30% equity interest, in Horizon L&L (SEL) Sdn Bhd from Valour Rock Sdn Bhd for RM10 million.

Matrix Concepts said that upon completion of the acquisitions, MCHB Development will effectively hold 70% equity interest in the HLL group, with all subsidiaries of HLLSB becoming wholly owned.

"This offers a strategic opportunity for the MCHB group to enter the property development market in Selangor, opening a new market for the group, which has already established a presence in Negeri Sembilan and

Johor, and has a track record in Kuala Lumpur.

"The acquisition aligns with MCHB's long-term growth objectives and allows the group to leverage the HLL group's experience in high-rise mixed-use developments," it said.

It added that the acquisitions are expected to generate strategic synergistic benefits in two key areas, namely a complementary business focus and an expanded geographical footprint, both of which are anticipated to support future business success and enhance shareholder value.

Barring any unforeseen circumstances, the acquisitions are expected to be completed by the second quarter of 2025. — **Bernama**

China sticks to its guns as fresh Trump threat pushes tension to the brink

BEIJING/SHANGHAI: China vowed yesterday to “fight to the end” against US tariffs as some citizens railed against President Donald Trump after he singled out Beijing for further levies, setting the stage for a standoff between the world’s two largest economies.

If Trump sticks to his plan for an additional 50% tariff on China unless it withdraws its retaliatory levies on the United States, total new US duties on Chinese goods this year could rise to 104% by today.

With global supply chains in jeopardy, Beijing is under pressure to respond ahead of a meeting between President Xi Jinping and Spain’s prime minister and a tour of Southeast Asia.

But with Trump’s previous tariff increases already squeezing Chinese exporters’ margins to the point of suffocation, further hikes would

only serve to underscore Washington’s appetite for brinkmanship and its desire to cut China out of the world’s biggest consumer market as a matter of principle, analysts say.

“The US side’s threat to escalate tariffs against China is a mistake on top of a mistake, once again exposing the American side’s blackmailing nature,” the Commerce Ministry said in a statement.

“If the United States insists on having its way, China will fight to the end.”

Trump said he would impose the additional 50% duty on US imports from China today if Beijing did not withdraw the 34% tariffs it imposed on US products last week.

The Chinese levies had come in response to “reciprocal” duties of 34% announced by Trump, on top of tariffs of 20% imposed earlier this year, lifting to 76% the average US tariff on

Chinese goods.

China’s foreign ministry also called out the United States for a lack of sincerity regarding serious dialogue.

“If the United States truly wants to talk, it should adopt an attitude of equality, respect, and mutual benefit,” ministry spokesperson Lin Jian told a regular press conference yesterday.

Separately, Chinese state holding companies vowed yesterday to increase share investment while a slew of listed firms announced share buybacks as Beijing stepped up efforts to stabilise a stock market rocked by US tariffs.

The announcements by companies including China Chengtong Holdings Group and China Reform Holdings Corp come a day after state fund Central Huijin said it would increase share holdings to steady markets.

China’s stock market rebounded yesterday,

clawing back some of Monday’s 7% slump, which was fuelled by trade war and global recession fears.

Meanwhile, a growing number of listed companies – many controlled by the government – unveiled plans to buy back shares.

Oil giant Sinopec said its state-owned parent plans to buy its China- and Hong Kong-listed shares worth at least 2 billion yuan (RM1.3 billion) over the next 12 months to demonstrate “confidence in future growth prospects”.

Orient Securities said it is studying plans to buy back shares in a bid to express optimism and actively protect shareholder interest.

Other listed firms that unveiled share buyback plans include Intco Recycling Resources Co, Spring Airlines Co and China Pacific Insurance (Group). – Reuters

Indonesian stocks, rupiah nosedive after holiday break

Shares regain some losses after trading halt lifted, central bank intervenes actively to defend currency

JAKARTA: Indonesia’s stock market sank yesterday, prompting a 30-minute trading halt, while the rupiah fell to a record low as markets reopened after an extended holiday break and reacted to the global market turmoil caused by US tariffs.

The main index fell 9.2% to its weakest since June 2021 in early trade. After the trading suspension was lifted, the index recouped some of its losses and was down 7.6% by 0704 GMT.

The rupiah fell 1.8% to as low as 16,850 per dollar, surpassing its Asian Financial Crisis trough to its weakest on record, LSEG data shows.

The central bank has and will continue to “intervene aggressively” in the spot foreign exchange, domestic non-deliverable forward (NDF) and bond markets, as well as in the offshore NDF market, to stabilise the rupiah, Fitri Jusdima, a Bank Indonesia (BI) official said.

However, some analysts predict further declines, even as the stock exchange modifies trading rules to prevent excessive selloffs.

Ahead of yesterday’s market opening, the exchange tightened auto-rejection rules for share transactions. Now, if a stock falls by 15%, sell orders would be automatically rejected, compared with the previous trigger of a share price fall of between 20% and 35%.

The bourse stated that a fall of 8% in the main index would trigger a 30-minute trading halt, expanded from 5% previously. Another 30-



Investors monitoring the opening of the composite stock index at the Indonesia Stock Exchange in Jakarta yesterday. The index fell 9.2% to its weakest since June 2021 in early trade. – AFP/IC

minute halt is triggered if the market then extended losses to 15%.

A decline of more than 20% would result in trading being suspended for the rest of the day, which the bourse said would allow investors “liquidity space and opportunity” to process information. The previous trigger for such suspension was a 15% drop.

“These are taken in anticipation of market conditions. We do not want to create panic, but we want domestic and foreign investors to have confidence that we give them enough room to transact after more than a week of break,” IDX chief executive Iman Rachman told a press conference.

Trading rules could be adjusted back when

conditions return to normal, an IDX executive said.

Oktavianus Audi, a vice president at brokerage Kiwoom Sekuritas, said the new auto-reject rules could provide some support for the stock index, but emphasised that the rule changes would only serve as short-term measures.

“Basically, the concern in the market is caused by macroeconomic factors and Trump’s tariff policy,” he said.

“So in our opinion, to ease market pressure we need strategic measures by the government to maintain the rupiah’s stability, ensure economic growth remains above 5% and a strategic response to maintain Indonesia’s trade surplus,” Audi said. – Reuters

Singapore: US tariffs not what ‘one does to a friend’

SINGAPORE: US President Donald Trump’s tariffs on Singapore are “not actions one does to a friend”, the city-state’s leader said yesterday, adding the government will likely downgrade this year’s economic growth forecast.

Prime Minister Lawrence Wong warned that the “likelihood of a full-blown global trade war is growing” and urged his trade-reliant nation to prepare for difficult times ahead.

“We are very disappointed by the US move, especially considering the deep and long-standing friendship between our two countries,” he said in an address to parliament.

“These are not actions one does to a friend.”

Trump last week announced sweeping levies on friends and foes alike after accusing the world

of “ripping off” the United States for years.

Singapore was hit with a 10% tariff, despite a free-trade agreement (FTA) with the United States. The rate is much less than those imposed on other countries.

But Wong said the trade-dependent nation will be particularly hurt by a slump in the world economy and the unravelling of the global trading system based on free trade.

“Singapore may or may not go into recession this year, but I have no doubt that our growth will be significantly impacted,” he said.

The trade ministry is reassessing its economic growth forecast this year of 1%-3% “and will likely revise it downwards,” he added.

Wong said that under the US-Singapore FTA,

the city-state imposes zero tariffs on American goods. Singapore also runs a trade deficit with Washington.

“If the tariffs were truly reciprocal and if they were meant to target only those with trade surpluses, then the tariff for Singapore should be zero,” he said.

“This marks a profound turning point. We are entering a new phase in global affairs, one that is more arbitrary, protectionist and dangerous,” Wong said.

Singapore hosts thousands of US companies and many of them have made the city their Asia-Pacific headquarters. While the island-nation is not a US defence treaty ally, it enjoys robust military ties with Washington. – AFP

BRIEFS

SAMSUNG FORECASTS FOR FIRST QUARTER EXCEED MARKET VIEWS

SEOUL: Samsung Electronics yesterday posted highest ever figures for its first-quarter sales forecast and said it predicted a better-than-expected performance for its profits, beating market expectations. The flagship subsidiary of South Korean giant Samsung Group said in a regulatory filing that its January to March operating profits were expected to rise to 6.6 trillion won (RM20 billion), down 0.15% from a year earlier but up nearly 2% compared to the previous quarter. This was almost 34% higher than the average estimate, according to South Korea’s Yonhap news agency, which cited its own financial data firm. Sales were seen as increasing to 79 trillion won, a near 10% jump from a year earlier, marking the highest first quarter figure on record and the second-highest quarterly revenue ever. The company did not disclose its net income or the detailed earnings of its business divisions. – AFP

TRUMP ORDERS FRESH REVIEW OF NIPPON STEEL BID FOR US STEEL

WASHINGTON/TOKYO: President Donald Trump on Monday directed a US national security panel to take a fresh look at Nippon Steel’s bid for US Steel to help determine if “further action” is appropriate, raising hopes that the deal could gain an elusive green light. “I direct the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States ... to conduct a review of the acquisition of US Steel by (Nippon Steel) to assist me in determining whether further action in this matter may be appropriate,” the memo reads. Shares in US Steel shot up nearly 14%, as investors took it to mean the administration was considering approving the merger, which former president Joe Biden blocked in January on national security grounds. Nippon Steel shares jumped almost 10% in Tokyo morning trade yesterday. Nippon Steel said it was pleased by the news. A spokesperson for US Steel said the company looks forward “to continuing to work closely with President Trump and his administration to finalise this significant and important investment”. – Reuters



Current gold rally mirrors that in 1980s, but with stronger footing

LONDON: Gold's latest gallop to all-time highs has drawn comparisons with the last time political and economic turmoil were the main drivers of record prices, back in 1980. But market players say the nature of this rally – and potentially its ability to endure – look different.

With tensions running high between historic allies over US tariffs, global trade, and wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, big powers look unlikely to pull together swiftly this time to resolve the issues driving interest in bullion as a haven from risk, analysts say.

The metal's surge above US\$3,000 (RM13,415) an ounce, driven most recently by US President Donald Trump's new round of tariffs on trading partners, has been the first time in a long time that geopolitics and economic uncertainty have served as the top factors moving the gold market, HSBC analyst James Steel said.

Spot gold hit a record US\$3,167.57 per troy ounce last week and is up 16% so far this year, on top of 27% growth in 2024. While the market's trajectory won't be linear, analysts say gold's entry into uncharted territory looks more sustainable than the one seen 45 years ago.

As the precious metal has an inverse correlation with trade flows, analysts said Trump's stance on tariffs – including Wednesday's announcement of Washington's steepest trade barriers in more than 100 years – has driven new investors into gold, fuelled by fear of an all-out trade war.

The dollar is also typically known to be a safe-haven asset, but there are some signs of the erosion of its status as uncertainty over tariffs intensifies.

More broadly, since taking office 2½ months ago, Trump has upended the world order, signalling the US may no longer guarantee Europe's security as Washington has since World War Two, and radically shifting the US approach to war in Ukraine. He also mooted a possible US annexation of Greenland.

The issues driving gold 45 years ago – most notably the Iranian Revolution and the oil crisis – were remedied relatively quickly, leading gold to decline, Steel said.

"But the breakdown in international cooperation in the

last few years has led to gold staying permanently high," he said. "It leads one to think... there is a bigger geopolitical bid in the market."

The trade tensions are only the latest in a string of factors driving gold higher.

The 2020s have seen a two-year coronavirus pandemic followed swiftly by Russia's 2022 war with Ukraine, the Chinese property market crisis, and Israel's war in Gaza.

The Ukraine war involved the precedent of Western sanctions freezing half of Russia's foreign currency reserves, with Moscow managing to keep effectively only gold. That attracted non-Western central banks towards bullion as they sought to diversify their reserves away from the dollar.

Monetary easing and worries about budget deficits also drove further Western investment in bullion last year.

Handling any of those issues may take global cooperation of a kind not yet seen in addressing the current turmoil surrounding tariffs.

"Unlike other recent crises that triggered coordinated global responses, this time there's no real prospect of policy alignment," said George Griffiths, head of dealing at brokerage AMT Futures, referring to escalating trade tensions.

While the market has this year conquered a series of milestones, one more remains. StoneX analyst Rhona O'Connell noted that gold peaked at US\$850 in January of 1980, which in dollar terms would equate to US\$3,486 today.

"While we have most definitely hit new highs in nominal terms, you could argue that we might not have hit it in real terms," HSBC's Steel said, referring to the 1980s milestone.

That could change. The current backdrop has widened expectations of an extended run higher where 2026, instead of this year, is being seen as the peak of gold's rally.

On March 26, BofA commodity strategist Michael Widmer raised his gold price forecast to US\$3,063 and US\$3,350 in 2025 and 2026 respectively, from US\$2,750 and US\$2,625 prior, and reiterated it on Sunday. He now sees spot gold prices hitting US\$3,500 within two years. – Reuters

Fintech firms dragged into tariff whirlwind

Investors fear that US duties may drive up prices, weaken demand, and trigger a global recession

NEW YORK: Financial technology (fintech) companies like Robinhood and buy now, pay later provider Affirm have been caught in the whirlwind of President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs, sending shares sharply downward amid fears about worsening consumer finances.

Global markets have been battered since Trump last week introduced a new baseline 10% US tariff on goods from all economies. Investors fear that the duties could lead to higher prices, weaker demand and potentially a global recession.

That could spell trouble for fintech companies, many of which rely heavily on consumers to be able to repay loans and deploy extra income toward stocks and other investments.

Some fintech firms, including Affirm and Robinhood, also earn fees from debit card and credit card

purchases – revenue that could be vulnerable if consumer spending cools.

While banks can have a diverse client base that could insulate firms from sudden market contractions, fintech companies are more likely to serve consumers that would be at the forefront of an economic shock, analysts say.

"A recession typically hits nice-to-have mass-market consumer businesses – including fintechs – harder than other sectors because the first group to pull back spending in a recession is lower-income consumers," said James Ulan, director of research, emerging technology at PitchBook.

Shares in Affirm are down more than 21% since Trump launched his global trade war on April 2, while shares in Robinhood are down more than 17%. Shares in SoFi, which offers loans and banking services, are down

nearly 20%.

"The adoption of honest financial products like Affirm is a secular and enduring trend across market cycles," a spokesman for Affirm said. "Against a backdrop of increased market volatility and uncertainty, Affirm's products become even more compelling to both consumers and merchants."

For companies that extend credit like Affirm and SoFi, worsening consumer sentiment and fears that tariffs could drive up prices have called into question the ability of borrowers to pay off loans.

Affirm reported that for the quarter ending Dec 31, 2.5% of its monthly loans were delinquent by more than 30 days. That was a slight increase compared to the year prior, but the company attributed that increase to a pricing adjustment.

SoFi said that for the quarter ending Dec 31, 0.55% of its personal loans were delinquent by more than 90 days.

Across banks, 2.75% of consumer loans were more than 30 days delinquent for the quarter ending Dec 31, according to the Federal Reserve.

"We know renewed inflation would be a drag on consumer credit. It crowds out excess cash flows, which means you have deteriorating ability to pay off debt," said John Hecht, an analyst at Jeffries.

Goldman Sachs joined other investment banks in raising the odds of a US recession on Monday due to fears that Trump's tariffs would roil the global economy. Trump has said his policies could cause short-term pain, but will ultimately boost the US economy and add more American jobs.

"The administration's talking point seems to be tariffs are a one-time price adjustment different from systemic inflation. Now I would say, to the average household, higher prices are higher prices," said Ted Rossman, senior industry analyst at Bankrate, a consumer finance publisher.

US consumer sentiment had already plunged to a nearly 2½-year low in March amid worries that tariffs would boost prices and undercut the economy, according to the University of Michigan Surveys of Consumers. – Reuters



Fintechs at risk as tariffs threaten consumer spending and loan repayments. – PEXELS PIX

'Stupidity, weakness' – Economists weigh in on Trump's measures

PARIS: A wide range of economists are voicing alarm over President Donald Trump's steep tariffs on imports into the US, sparking a trade war that experts say could tip many countries into recession. Here are comments by some leading economists:

Failure of Reaganism

For Thomas Piketty, French author of the best-selling *Capital* in the Twenty-First Century, "Trumpism is first of all a reaction to the failure of Reaganism" – the liberalisation of President Ronald Reagan in the 1980s.

"Republicans realise that economic liberalism and globalisation have not benefitted the middle class as they said they would," the left-leaning

economist told AFP.

"So now they're using the rest of the world as a scapegoat," he said. "But it's not going to work: the Trump cocktail is simply going to generate more inflation and more inequalities."

In response, "Europe needs to define its own priorities and prepare for the global recession that's coming" with a massive investment plan in "energy and transport infrastructure, education, research and health".

Malignant stupidity

Paul Krugman, the Nobel economics prize laureate, said the US was essentially the founder of the modern trade system that had led to lower tariffs over

the past decades.

"Donald Trump burned it all down," Krugman wrote on his popular Substack blog before the president's baseline 10% tariffs on imports took effect on Saturday.

"Trump isn't really trying to accomplish economic goals. This should all be seen as a dominance display, intended to shock and awe people and make them grovel," he said.

Krugman accused the US administration of "malignant stupidity" at a time when "the fate of the world economy is on the line".

Major problem for the poor

For Nasser Saidi, a former economy minister of Lebanon, "a major problem

is the impact on the least-developed and emerging countries" from Trump's "seismic shock to the global trade landscape".

"Countries like Egypt, Lebanon or Jordan are going to face disruptions in terms of their trade relations" as well as the prospect of cuts to foreign investments.

"When you have tariffs of this type being set up, high levels of tariffs with no economic basis, what you're going to do is severely disrupt supply chains," he added.

"I think we're finished with the era of globalisation and liberalisation", which will lead countries in the Middle East, for example, to reinforce ties with Asian partners.

Weapon of the weak

Kako Nubukpo, an economist and former government minister in Togo, warned Trump's tariffs will hurt African countries already facing political troubles.

"Those left behind by globalisation appear more and more numerous. And so we've seen an increase in illiberal regimes, whether that's in Europe, Africa or America," he said.

But "protectionism is a weapon of the weak, and I think Trump has realised that in the competition with China, the US is now the weaker one."

In response, "African countries should promote their own national and regional value chains" as buffers against Trump's tariffs. – The New York Times Company, AFP

MARKET ROUND-UP: APRIL 8

Bursa Trade Statistic

8 April 2025

Source: Bursa Malaysia, Inter-Pacific Research

Participation

Retail (18.47%)	Institution (41.11%)	Foreign (40.42%)
Net (in RM mil.)	Net (in RM mil.)	Net (in RM mil.)
+66.79	+332.28	-399.06
Bought (in RM mil.)	Bought (in RM mil.)	Bought (in RM mil.)
556.69	1330.54	945.41
Sold (in RM mil.)	Sold (in RM mil.)	Sold (in RM mil.)
489.90	998.26	1344.48

Preliminary status (Excluding Trade Amendments) | Final data, refer to Bursa website

Need Some Ideas?
Our Monthly Trader's Talk will be held Every 1st Monday of the Month Live webinar with Q&A

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SUNBIZ presents a summary of the day's trading activity on Bursa Malaysia and other markets in an easy to digest format.

Sources: Bursa Malaysia, Bernama, shareinvestor.com and websites

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Bursa Indices

INDEX	CHANGE
FBMEMAS	10,650.75 +32.19
FBMKLCI	1,443.56 -0.24
CONSUMER PRODUCTS & SERVICES	464.61 +3.96
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS & SERVICES	137.05 +1.56
CONSTRUCTION	240.51 +6.12
FINANCIAL SERVICES	17,595.29 -13.98
ENERGY	644.44 +2.06
TELECOMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA	458.89 +0.64
HEALTH CARE	1,797.66 +42.74
TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS	941.76 +0.34
PROPERTY	918.74 +6.35
PLANTATION	6,973.76 -125.04
FBMSHA	10,353.91 +52.14
FBMACE	4,313.90 +61.18
TECHNOLOGY	40.60 +0.26

TURNOVER: 3.320 bil VALUE: RM2.832 bil

FBM KLCI loses earlier gains, ends marginally lower

THE FBM KLCI erased earlier gains to close marginally lower yesterday as mild bargain hunting activities were offset by cautious mood over ongoing global uncertainties.

At 5pm, the benchmark index slipped 0.24 of a point, or 0.02%, to 1,443.56 from Monday's close of 1,443.80.

The benchmark index opened 7.63 points firmer at 1,451.43 and climbed to as high as 1,454.58 in early trade before retreating to a low of 1,440.89 towards the end of the morning trading session. It then moved in a yo-yo mode during the afternoon session.

Turnover dwindled to 3.32 billion units valued at RM2.83 billion against 5.35 billion units valued at RM4.67 billion on Monday.

Rakuten Trade Sdn Bhd equity research vice-president Thong Pak Leng said the barometer index ended flatish due to mixed performance of blue chips although bargain hunting was observed in healthcare, construction, and consumer stocks.

"We prefer to stay cautious, however, the current cheap valuation of FBM KLCI presents an opportunity for long-term investors who have strong holding power to buy on dips. Meanwhile, short-term players should consider pausing until momentum improves and risk-reward dynamics become more favourable," he told Bernama.

For heavyweights, Maybank fell 12 sen to RM9.88, Public Bank gained one sen to RM4.22, Tenaga Nasional added 10 sen to RM13.22, CIMB picked up six sen to RM6.68, IHH Healthcare rose two sen to RM6.73, and Petronas Gas lost 58 sen to RM15.74.

Among the actives, MYEG advanced six sen to 77 sen, Revenue and Inari Amertron gained one sen each to 9.5 sen and RM1.55 respectively, Top Glove put on five sen to 82 sen, and Tanco gained 1.5 sen to 80 sen.

Top 20 Actives

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (RM)	+/- (%)	VOLUME ('00)
HSI-PWD3	0.080	-0.025	-23.81	2,454,076
HSI-CWC4	0.060	+0.005	+9.09	2,053,719
MYEG	0.770	+0.060	+8.45	1,335,656
HSI-CWCT	0.050	+0.005	+11.11	1,105,086
HSI-CWEI	0.080	+0.035	+77.78	665,404
GAMUDA-C2R	0.035	-	-	564,131
REVENUE	0.095	+0.010	+11.77	531,842
HSI-CWC5	0.035	-	-	514,486
INARI	1.550	+0.010	+0.65	502,460
TOPGLOV	0.820	+0.050	+6.49	359,008
CIMB	6.680	+0.060	+0.91	332,137
TANCO	0.800	+0.015	+1.91	319,383
SUPERMX	0.775	+0.065	+9.16	309,962
GAMUDA	3.770	+0.080	+2.17	302,070
HSI-PWDT	0.180	+0.120	+200.00	279,912
PBBANK	4.220	+0.010	+0.24	278,386
VELESTO	0.140	-	-	266,728
GENETEC	0.880	-0.035	-3.83	266,540
VS	0.680	-0.005	-0.73	266,107
HSI-CWC6	0.115	-	-	251,101



Top 20 Gainers (By RM)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (RM)	VOLUME ('00)
PETDAG	18.320	+1.000	8,446
HSI-PWFF	1.750	+0.600	316
HEIM	25.960	+0.460	1,460
HTPADU	2.120	+0.330	6,768
HSI-PWFE	0.925	+0.300	1
HILND	13.240	+0.280	1,222
SUNCON	4.150	+0.270	45,855
LPI	13.760	+0.240	909
AMWAY	4.860	+0.210	2,252
NIKKEI-HM	2.640	+0.210	155
APOLLO	6.000	+0.180	216
HUMEIND	2.740	+0.180	6,837
BAT	6.080	+0.170	2,774
NESTLE	74.160	+0.160	1,461
UCHITEC	3.030	+0.160	19,009
XIAOMI-C32	0.980	+0.150	350
HARTA	1.980	+0.130	135,120
SUNWAY	4.170	+0.130	78,940
CIHLDG	2.600	+0.120	61
FIHB	0.320	+0.120	1,294

Top 20 Gainers (By %)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (%)	VOLUME ('00)
HSI-PWDO	0.125	+316.67	770
HSI-PWDT	0.180	+200.00	279,912
HSTECH-C22	0.055	+175.00	3,061
GAMUDA-C3C	0.025	+150.00	3,161
HSTECH-C20	0.105	+110.00	8,601
BCMALL	0.010	+100.00	1,927
CIMB-CIX	0.010	+100.00	4,500
DIALOG-CIW	0.010	+100.00	20,899
FBMKLCI-CQW	0.010	+100.00	1,403
HARTA-C2P	0.010	+100.00	4,841
HONGSENG	0.010	+100.00	4,263
MSC-CR	0.030	+100.00	11,712
MYEG-C8K	0.040	+100.00	200
NATGATE-CL	0.010	+100.00	1,705
SCBUILD	0.010	+100.00	1,251
SNTORIA	0.010	+100.00	5,105
SUNCON-C25	0.030	+100.00	5,020
SUPERMX-C4N	0.070	+100.00	216,437
TENAGA-C2Q	0.010	+100.00	200
TOPGLOV-C4U	0.020	+100.00	2,349

World Stocks/Commodities

INDEX	CLOSING	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY CHANGE (%)
DJIA [US]	37,965.60	-349.26	-0.91
S&P 500 [US]	5,062.25	-11.83	-0.23
NASDAQ [US]	15,603.26	15.47	0.1
NYSE [US]	17,438.64	-179.97	-1.02
EURO STOXX 50 [EUR]	4,720.78	64.37	1.38
FTSE 100 [UK]	7,867.97	165.89	2.15
DAX [GER]	20,121.59	331.97	1.68
NIKKEI 225 [JPN]	33,012.58	1,876.00	6.03
TOPIX INDEX [JPN]	2,432.02	143.36	6.26
HANG SENG INDEX [HK]	20,127.68	299.38	1.51
CSI 300 [CHN]	3,650.76	61.32	1.71
MSCI ASIA PACIFIC	162.82	-15.42	-8.65
SHANGHAI SE COM [CHN]	3,145.55	48.97	1.58
KOSPI INDEX [SK]	2,334.23	6.03	0.26
SENSEX INDEX [IND]	74,395.38	1,257.48	1.72
ASX 200 [AUS]	7,509.98	166.72	2.27
ALL ORDINARIES INDX [AUS]	7,704.40	180.09	2.39
FBM KLCI	1,443.56	-0.24	-0.02
STRAITS TIMES INDEX [S'PORE]	3,490.78	-49.72	-1.4
WTI [US\$/BBL.]	60.74	0.04	0.07
BRENT [US\$/BBL.]	64.18	-0.03	-0.05
GOLD [COMEX] [US\$/T OZ]	3,017.00	43.4	1.46
SILVER [COMEX] [US\$/T OZ]	30.09	0.49	1.64
PLATINUM [US\$/T OZ]	920.95	1.35	0.15
COPPER [COMEX] [US CENTS/LB.]	428.6	10	2.39
COPPER 3MO [LME] [US\$/MT]	8,732.00	-48	-0.55
CORN [US CENTS/BU.]	473.75	3	0.64
WHEAT [US CENTS/BU.]	543.5	7	1.3
SOYBEAN OIL [CBOT] [US CENTS/LB.]	45.92	0.41	0.9
COCOA [ICE] [US\$/MT]	7,992.00	-4	-0.05
RUBBER [S'PORE] [US CENTS/KG]	165.1	1.5	0.92

As at 5pm, April 8

Top 20 Losers (By RM)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (RM)	VOLUME ('00)
HSI-CWC2	0.255	-0.975	400
HSI-CWCO	0.130	-0.920	4,264
DLADY	28.200	-0.800	97
KLK	19.080	-0.740	5,876
MPI	14.020	-0.640	7,279
PETGAS	15.740	-0.580	10,854
HSI-CWBE	0.125	-0.480	1,580
HKEX-CQ	0.315	-0.330	25
NDX-HK	1.100	-0.250	256
HSI-CWCU	0.185	-0.220	78,148
ALIBABA-C42	0.100	-0.200	130
SP500-H53	2.080	-0.200	2,218
IOICORP	3.460	-0.150	30,456
NIKKEI-HK	0.945	-0.125	633
MAYBANK	9.880	-0.120	230,893
PPB	10.960	-0.120	6,766
ABMB	4.170	-0.110	31,106
FRONTKN	2.860	-0.110	85,929
F&N	23.200	-0.100	226
KHIND	2.000	-0.100	10

Top 20 Losers (By %)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (%)	VOLUME ('00)
MYEG-C7K	0.005	-91.670	100
HSI-CWCO	0.130	-87.620	4,264
JDCOM-C23	0.010	-85.710	400
MYEG-C7Q	0.015	-81.250	10,000
ALIBABA-C39	0.010	-80.000	260
MSM-C1	0.010	-80.000	130
HSI-CWBE	0.125	-79.340	1,580
HSI-CWC2	0.255	-79.270	400
GENM-C3D	0.005	-75.000	510
ALIBABA-C42	0.100	-66.670	130
CYPARK-C6	0.005	-66.670	200
FRONTKN-C38	0.030	-66.670	3,222
HIBISCS-C73	0.025	-64.290	200
MYEG-C8G	0.020	-63.640	200
VELOCITY-WB	0.020	-55.560	1,000
HSI-CWCU	0.185	-54.320	78,148
WPRTS-C27	0.030	-53.850	5,000
HKEX-CQ	0.315	-51.160	25
ABMB-C17	0.010	-50.000	4,580
GREATC-C15	0.005	-50.000	800

MARKETS/FROM THE BROKERS

SUNBIZ presents extracts of a selection of commentaries and research reports received from stockbrokers on counters that could be of interest to investors.

Compiled by SunBiz Team

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Maybank IB positive on M'sian REITs, sees little US tariff impact

KUALA LUMPUR: The recently announced reciprocal tariffs are not expected to have a direct material impact on Malaysia's real estate investment trusts (M-REITs), but may have knock-on effects on the country's macro outlook.

In a note yesterday, Maybank Investment Bank Bhd (Maybank IB) said M-REITs with strong underlying asset quality, diversified portfolios, and consistent income visibility offer a defensive option for investors amid uncertainties.

"We remain positive on M-REITs and maintain a 'buy' call on Sunway REIT, Axis REIT, Pavilion REIT, YTLREIT, Sentral REIT and CapitalLand Malaysia Trust (CLMT)," it said.

Maybank IB said while luxury-focused retailers may see some drag from weaker sentiment, well-located prime malls should remain resilient.

"Pavilion REIT (Pavilion KL), Sunway REIT (Sunway Pyramid Mall) and IGBREIT (Mid Valley Megamall, The Gardens) are expected to continue to benefit from steady footfall and tourist recovery.

"CLMT is gradually repositioning its retail assets to attract mass-market tenants and improve occupancy, which could cushion against any softness in the higher-end segment," it added.

Meanwhile, an interest rate cut by Bank Negara Malaysia, amid softer growth and benign inflation, would be positive for M-REITs, especially those with higher floating-rate debt exposure.

"Lower borrowing costs could reduce interest expenses and may translate into higher distributable income," it said.

The investment bank said M-REITs offer an estimated net dividend yield of 3.9% to 8.3% for 2025, a yield spread of about 23-465 basis points over 10-year Malaysian Government Securities, which currently trades at 3.65%. - Bernama

Ringgit extends loss against dollar as concerns linger

THE ringgit continued to close lower against the US dollar yesterday, weighed down by lingering market concerns over US President Donald Trump's tariffs.

At 6pm, the local currency weakened to 4.4885/4930 against the greenback, compared to Monday's close of 4.4775/4840. The ringgit, however, rose against other major currencies.

Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd chief economist Dr Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid said the ringgit briefly touched RM4.5000 against the US dollar during the early morning session before rising slightly later in the day.

He said President Trump appears determined to uphold his policy stance and continues to adopt a confrontational approach toward countries that retaliate against US tariffs, indicating a prolonged period of tariff-related disruptions.

"It's still uncertain how open the Trump administration will be to negotiations with other nations, and this clearly adds to the unpredictability surrounding the global economic outlook for the year.

"The currency markets are likely to remain volatile in the near term," he told Bernama.

The ringgit traded firmer against major currencies yesterday. It rose against the Japanese yen to 3.0501/0533 from 3.0655/0704 and gained against the euro to 4.9005/9055 from 4.9100/9172 and increased against the British pound to 5.7210/7268 from 5.7491/7575 on Monday.

The local note was mostly higher against Asean currencies. The ringgit was higher against the Singapore dollar at 3.3224/3259 from 3.3228/3281 previously but fell against the Philippine peso at 7.83/7.84 from 7.79/7.81.

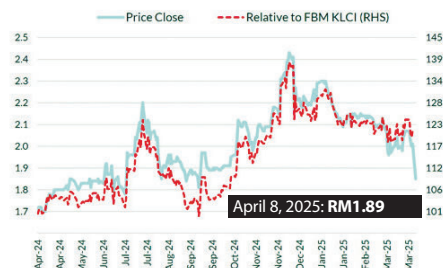
Exchange Rates

FOREIGN CURRENCY	SELLING TT/OD	BUYING TT	BUYING OD
1 US Dollar	4.5560	4.4200	4.4100
1 Australian Dollar	2.7560	2.6430	2.6270
1 Brunei Dollar	3.3730	3.2720	3.2640
1 Canadian Dollar	3.2030	3.1160	3.1040
1 Euro	4.9890	4.8270	4.8070
1 New Zealand Dollar	2.5410	2.4470	2.4310
1 Singapore Dollar	3.3730	3.2720	3.2640
1 Sterling Pound	5.8200	5.6350	5.6150
1 Swiss Franc	5.3420	5.1120	5.0970
100 UAE Dirham	125.5100	118.9600	118.7600
100 Bangladesh Taka	3.8280	3.5640	3.5640
100 Chinese Renminbi	62.7700	60.0900	N/A
100 Danish Krone	68.5000	63.0100	62.8100
100 Hongkong Dollar	59.2700	56.3000	56.1000
100 Indian Rupee	5.4000	5.0600	4.8600
100 Indonesian Rupiah	0.0285	0.0258	0.0208
100 Japanese Yen	3.0930	2.9930	2.9830
100 New Taiwan Dollar	N/A	N/A	N/A
100 Norwegian Krone	42.7800	39.3300	39.1300
100 Pakistan Rupee	1.6500	1.5500	1.3500
100 Philippine Peso	8.0600	7.5900	7.3900
100 Qatar Riyal	126.3500	119.9500	119.7500
100 Saudi Riyal	122.6800	116.4600	116.2600
100 South Africa Rand	24.1500	21.8100	21.6100
100 Sri Lanka Rupee	1.5700	1.4400	1.2400
100 Swedish Krona	46.8000	42.6200	42.4200
100 Thai Baht	13.7200	12.1700	11.7700

Source: Malayan Banking Bhd/Bernama

Kerjaya Prospek Group Bhd

Buy. Target price: RM2.67



Source: Bloomberg

KERJAYA Prospek announced its fourth job win for FY25 worth RM291.4 million, which was awarded by an indirect subsidiary of Eastern & Oriental for the execution of 50-storey main building works. This is for a proposed service apartment development that comprises one block of 516 units on EAST's Andaman Island project in Penang. The contract is expected to commence on 23 Jun with a targeted completion of 38 months.

We understand this latest job win relates to the Maris project launched in January with an estimated GDV of RM700 million - it is also EAST's fifth property development project on Andaman Island. Profitability-wise, we expect the net margin for Maris to be between 9% and 10%. Excluding Maris, there is RM1.3 billion left to be launched in CY25 to meet EAST's property launch target of RM2 billion for Andaman Island during this year. As such, the potential construction value from these launches could amount to RM520 million (assuming construction costs are 40% of total GDV).

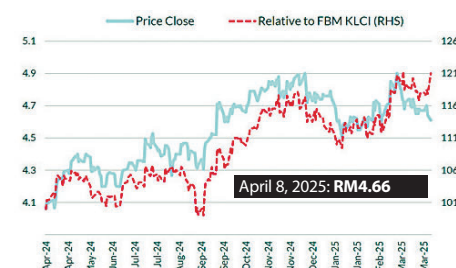
We learnt that there are still more dredging and reclamation works up for grabs for Phases 2B and 2C of Andaman Island, which could be in excess of RM300 million. Between 2026 and 2030, EAST targets to develop RM3.8 billion (GDV) worth of properties, which may lead to a construction value of RM1.5 billion.

KPG's latest construction orderbook now stands at RM4.3 billion (2.5x cover ratio), while the total new contracts secured amounted to RM610 million vs our FY25 job replenishment target of RM1.6 billion. KPG has tenders worth between RM2 billion and RM3 billion, which includes a data centre the group is bidding for by itself.

BUY with RM2.67 TP. - RHB Research, April 8

QL Resources Bhd

Neutral. Target price: RM4.40



Source: Bloomberg

QL Resources should see a modest earnings growth going forward with the normalisation of integrated livestock farming (ILF) business post the recent supercycle and stiff competition in marine product manufacturing (MPM). All in, QLG offers a defensive earnings profile thanks to its diversified and staple-oriented business model which will appeal to investors amidst the risks of global growth slowdown. That said, the lofty valuation may have priced in the resilient fundamentals and attributes.

The ILF business is on track to record a 3-year PBT CAGR of 100% in FY25. The exponential growth is driven by favourable market conditions, industry consolidation, easing raw material costs, and the subsidy programmes in Malaysia. Whilst we expect the earnings to stay elevated as some of the catalysts will remain intact going forward, the segmental earnings growth may start to slow from the high base and more balanced supply-demand dynamics.

MPM should see weaker sequential earnings in Q4'25 due to the monsoon season. Meanwhile, competition is tight in the fishmeal and surimi sub-segments on the challenges of slower aquaculture activities and a weak JPY. On the other hand, QLG's Indonesia expansion to add surimi-based product capacity is progressing well as the group aims to capitalise on the huge opportunity in the country. By and large, MPM earnings are expected to stay robust, underpinned by resilient demand for surimi-based staple food products and continuous expansion to capture the rising demand.

Risks to our recommendations include a sharp increase in input costs and major delays in expansion plans.

NEUTRAL with RM4.40 TP. - RHB Research, April 8

YTL Hospitality REIT

Buy. Target price: RM1.24



Source: Maybank Investment Bank

YTL Hospitality REIT invests and manages hospitality real estates. Core businesses include leasing of hospitality properties and operation of hotels.

The Malaysian portfolio continues to perform well, underpinned by stable master leases income and the new asset. The renovation of the Ipoh Hotel was completed on March 17, and the property has since been rebranded as AC Hotel Ipoh. It is leased to Prisma Tulin Sdn Bhd, a wholly owned subsidiary of YTL Corp, under a 15-year lease agreement effective from April 1, with an option to renew for another 15 years. This will lift 3% of our Malaysia's NPI, with a 7% NPI yield. In addition, Japan's income also remains resilient, supported by its master lease structure.

YTLREIT's Australian portfolio continues to deliver strong operational performance despite some external challenges i.e. high operating costs e.g. staff and maintenance. In Q2'25 (Oct-Dec), the RevPAR for Australian hotels rose 8.4% YoY, supported by higher occupancy rates and higher average daily rates. However, lower-than-expected repatriated income impacted the distribution income, prompting us to lower our dividend distribution. Nevertheless, management remains focused on optimising the assets through improved operational efficiencies and costs.

As at end-Dec 2024, YTLREIT's gearing (debt to asset) stood at 42.9%, with estimated debt headroom of RM505 million for future acquisitions. Its assets portfolio remains well-diversified across Malaysia (52.5%), Australia (37.8%) and Japan (9.7%). YTLREIT continues to focus on long-term growth via strategic assets acquisitions and development projects including the Moxo Niseko in Japan, which is scheduled to complete in 2026.

BUY with RM1.24 TP. - Maybank Investment Bank, April 8



the Sun **LYFE**

WEDNESDAY | APR 9, 2025

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Catwalk dreams

Violet Lim on modelling ambitions - P22



WEEKLY FOCUS

MONDAY
Technology and social media

TUESDAY
Family and parenting

WEDNESDAY
Fashion and beauty

THURSDAY
Home and living

FRIDAY
Travel and leisure

SATURDAY
Food and beverage

- ADAM AMIR HAMZAH/THE SUN

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SCAN ME

Rising runway star

► Violet Lim shares her story as she strives to make mark in fashion, entertainment after competition wins

BY JOHN TAN

FOR as long as she could remember, Violet Lim Chiew Pyng has always dreamt of a career as a fashion model. Like many young women, the 24-year-old Klang native was drawn to the creative and artistic aspect of being a model.

"As a model, you get to bring a designer's vision to life and showcase their artistry. I also love how fashion has the power to transform, allowing for different looks, personas and styles," said Lim during an exclusive interview.

Her passion led to her participation in I Am Model Search (IAMS) Malaysia 2024 upon graduating from the Amber Chia Academy.

Not only was she crowned its winner, but Lim also proceeded to represent Malaysia at IAMS International 2025, winning the title!

Fresh from her victory, Lim spoke with *theSun* about her triumphant journey and plans moving forward.

How did you discover IAMS International 2025?

I found out about the competition because the organiser (Faiz Noh) reached out to me. He asked me whether I would be interested in signing up for IAMS Malaysia 2024, which is the national edition.

After researching, I decided to participate and finished as the grand winner of IAMS Malaysia 2024. Then I had the opportunity to represent Malaysia on the international stage, which is IAMS International 2025.

What are the routines and preparations that led to your victory?

Preparation was key. There were three main costumes I needed to prepare for the competition, which were traditional costumes, a silk dress and a blue evening gown.

Before the competition, I also trained as much as I could during my free time. I had a catwalk coach who I trained with weekly to improve my posture, poses, facial expression and catwalk. All this to improve my presence on stage.

Skincare and fitness were also important. Other than that, I also worked on my mental strength by



Lim during a photoshoot at BookXcess RexKL.



Lim aims to follow in the footsteps of mentor Chia. - PICS BY ADAM AMIR HAMZAH/THESUN



Lim holds a degree in Public Relations.



Lim on the night of her victory at I Am Model Search International 2025. - PIC COURTESY OF VIOLET LIM

maintaining a positive mindset.

What were some hurdles that made the experience difficult?

I would say the pressure to constantly be at my best. Competing on an international level and surrounded by other contestants made me doubt myself a lot. So managing nerves and confidence

was something I had to work on.

Also, the long hours of rehearsals and back-to-back activities are mentally and physically draining. But I kept reminding myself why I was there and I pushed through.

What memories from the competition will you hold on to?

Meeting all the contestants there. It

was special that we got to share our experiences and stories with each other. We also shared a lot of laughs and memories beyond the competition.

But the memory I will cherish the most is the moment I stepped onto the final stage and was announced the winner. All my hard work led to that moment.

Do you hope for your victory to kick-start any future endeavours?

Certainly. I hope to be able to use this title and experience to further my career in entertainment. Hopefully, it will bring more hosting, acting and collaborations. I hope to mentor aspiring models too because I want to inspire others to chase after their dreams.

Speaking of which, what do you hope to achieve this year?

I hope to further my career as a model. That is the main thing I want to focus on at the moment. I am still at the tip of the iceberg and I want to reach greater heights in this line.

Do you hope to compete in beauty pageants in the future such as Miss Universe?

I do plan to join in the future. Maybe in 2028 because Miss Universe is an incredible platform that celebrates beauty, intelligence and empowerment.

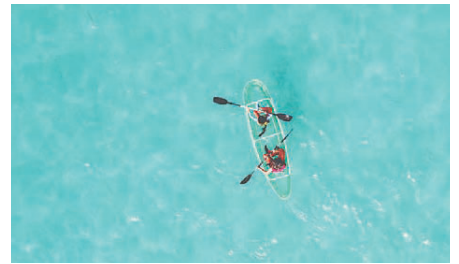
Its values align with my own. In the meantime, I aim to focus on my current opportunities and prepare myself better before taking on the challenge to represent Malaysia on a bigger stage.



ATV adventure through jungle and beach.



During the turtle nesting season from May to October, guests have the chance to release hatchlings into the sea.



Redang's pristine beaches is your local paradise all year-round.

➤ Visit The Taaras Beach & Spa Resort in Redang Island for wholesome, luxury holiday all-year round

AS the monsoon season bids farewell, the pristine shores of Redang Island welcome you with warm sunshine, crystal-clear waters and the gentle caress of a tropical breeze.

With the skies now painted in brilliant hues of blue and the sun casting its golden glow over the pristine beaches, nature extends a warm invitation to those seeking tranquility, adventure and unparalleled beauty.

Nestled amid this breathtaking tropical haven, The Taaras Beach & Spa Resort beckons you to immerse yourself in sheer luxury and serenity with its exclusive Sunshine Escape Experience.

Here, the harmony of indulgence and nature's wonders come together to create a luxurious retreat like no other. Wake up to the soothing sounds of waves lapping against the shore, step onto powdery white sands just beyond your doorstep and take a refreshing dip in the crystal-clear waters teeming with vibrant marine life.

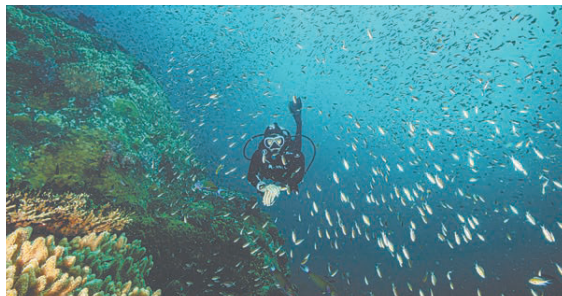
Sanctuary of sun-kissed bliss

Imagine waking up to the soothing sounds of the South China Sea, stepping onto powdery white sands and basking in the golden sunlight. The post-monsoon season brings just the right weather - blue skies, warm waters and an idyllic setting for relaxation and adventure.

World of oceanic wonders

For those who seek adventure, the turquoise waters of Redang has an array of exhilarating sea activities.

Glide across the ocean on a kayak, race across the sands on an ATV or dive beneath the waves to discover a mesmerising underwater world. Experience the magic of snorkelling



Nestled amid South China Sea, The Taaras offers scuba divers the chance to explore over 30 captivating dive sites surrounding Redang Island to experience the abundant marine life.



Escape to paradise

The Taaras is open all-year round for those seeking an adventure in the comfort of luxury.



The Taaras provides the chance for guests to get up close with sea turtles.

alongside friendly sea turtles or embark on an unforgettable diving excursion to explore Redang's vibrant coral gardens teeming with marine life.

Luxurious retreat like no other

After a day of exploration, retreat to the serene elegance of The Taaras. Lounge by the swimming pool, indulge in a signature spa treatment or savour delightful cuisine against the backdrop of a breathtaking sunset. Every detail of your stay is crafted for the ultimate luxury experience.

Commitment to conservation

Beyond luxury, The Taaras is deeply committed to marine conservation. Witness the beauty of nature as you take part in our turtle hatchling release programme by Seatru (Sea Turtle Research Unit) Turtle Lab - a heartwarming experience where you can watch baby turtles make their first journey to the sea.

In collaboration with Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, this once-in-a-lifetime moment is not only

Guests can engage in activities such as stand-up paddleboarding at The Taaras.



Jojo Flight operated by Berjaya Air to Redang Island prioritises safety, privacy and a comfortable journey for travellers.

unforgettable but also contributes to the protection of these gentle creatures for generations to come.

Seamless travel to paradise

Your journey to this tropical haven is effortless with Jojo Flight by Berjaya Air, offering direct flights from Subang SkyPark Terminal and Seletar, Singapore to Redang Island.

Skip the hassle and arrive in style, ready to immerse yourself in the beauty of The Taaras.

Book your sunshine escape

Unwind, explore and reconnect with nature in the lap of luxury. Discover the Sunshine Escape Experience and create unforgettable memories at The Taaras. Comprising a two-night stay, welcome evening cocktail with canapes, dinner, snorkelling and kayak experience as well as complimentary daily minibar, this package is valid for bookings until Dec 29 and stays until Dec 31.

Visit www.thetaaras.com to book your exclusive getaway today.

Holy grail or just hype?



The hue drops can be used as it is or under sunscreen and makeup. — **GLOWRECIPE PIC**



For long-lasting, brighter and anti-dark spot skin.

Safi Perfect White SPF50+ PA++++ 3x Advance Brightening Sunscreen

Function: Formulated to provide broad-spectrum protection against harmful UVA and UVB rays.
Ingredients: With 100x vitamin C, niacinamide and glycolic acid to help protect skin from becoming dull from long exposure from the sun. No paraben, no animal-derived ingredient, no colourant.
Pros: No white cast, light-weight and non-greasy, this sunscreen is ideal for daily use and all skin types.
Cons: Small tube that will run out quickly if used daily. No fragrance.
Price: RM19.90 (25g)
Rating: 4/5
 — by **EE ANN NEE**

Tanamera Rose Floral Water

Function: The scent of rose is known for its relaxing properties for children and adults. Natural rose water makes an excellent skin toner, helps prevent skin dryness and gives a fresh look to the face.
Ingredients: Rose floral water
Pros: Rose-scented floral water that is refreshing, fragrant, soothing and revitalising. Can be used to blend homemade skincare preparations such as scrubs and masks, or even your *bedak sejuk* (traditional cooling rice powder).
Cons: Expensive
Price: RM67.80 (100ml)
Rating: 4/5
 — by **EE ANN NEE**



Spray on some rose floral water to form a fine mist over your face or body.



Gatsby Moving Lock Spray has a non-lingering sweet green apple aroma.

Gatsby Moving Lock Spray

Function: An ultra-fine particle spray, Gatsby Moving Lock guarantees long-lasting styling. Creates volume and shine when applied.
Ingredients: AMP-acrylates copolymer, AMP-acrytes/CI-18 alkyl acrylamide copolymer, dipropylene glycol, panthenol, fragrance, alcohol, butane, propane, isobutane.
Pros: Lasting throughout the day even in rainy and humid weather, it is affordable and aromatic.
Cons: Hairspray's packaging can use some improvement
Price: RM19.71 (170g)
Rating: 4/5
 — by **JOHN TAN**

Glow Recipe Watermelon Glow Niacinamide Hue Drops Serum

Function: Brightens and hydrates skin, providing a smooth, sun-kissed glow that warms the complexion.
Ingredients: Niacinamide, hyaluronic acid, watermelon
Method: Apply before makeup and sunscreen.
Pros: Gives skin a healthy glow, slowly reduces hyperpigmentation and scar marks. Ideal for the everyday, no-makeup makeup routine.
Cons: Not meant for full-coverage or full glam, and luxury price point.
Price: RM172 (40ml)
Rating: 3/5
 — by **VERONICA ELANKOVAN**



A breakthrough formula that focuses on rejuvenating and restoring skin's youthfulness.

Skinmade Golden C + Exoshot Collagen Boosting Filler Concentrate

Function: Smooths fine lines and wrinkles, and restores firmness.
Ingredients: Pure vitamin C, gold particles, salmon DNA, antioxidants, ascorbic acid
Pros: Fast absorption, smooth application.
Cons: May not see results for skin with less wrinkle or higher content of collagen in skin, and luxury price point.
Price: RM377.81 (15ml)
Rating: 2/5
 — by **VERONICA ELANKOVAN**



Empire State of Mind crooner Alicia Keys (left) and husband Swizz Beatz.



American entrepreneur and socialite Wendi Murdoch.



Actress-turned-talk-show-host Drew Barrymore.



American socialite and businesswoman Paris Hilton.



Venezuelan actor Edgar Ramirez.

Big bang glam

▶ Hollywood's finest personalities grace Oscars of Science's carpet

LYFE'S LOOKBOOK

THE 2025 Breakthrough Prize ceremony in California, US, last Saturday honoured scientists driving remarkable discoveries in gene editing, human diseases, fundamental particles of the Universe and its underlying mathematical principles.

The Breakthrough Prize, popularly known as the "Oscars of Science", was created to celebrate the wonders of our scientific age. Six Breakthrough Prizes of US\$3 million (RM13.45 million) each were awarded in life sciences, fundamental physics and mathematics.

Before the event, Gwyneth Paltrow, Paris Hilton, Christina Aguilera, Katy Perry and more celebrities walk the red carpet.



Wonderwoman actress Gal Gadot.



Vocal powerhouse Christina Aguilera.



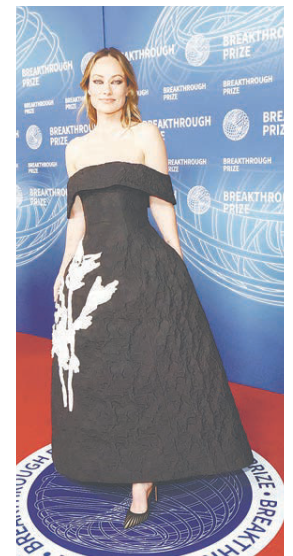
Frida's lead actress Salma Hayek. — ALL PICS FROM REUTERS



Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg (right) and wife Priscilla Chan.



Hollywood actress Gwyneth Paltrow.



Don't Worry Darling's actress Olivia Wilde.



Ramsey plays Ellie, seemingly the one human immune to the deadly fungus that ravaged the world in *Last of Us*. – **HBO/PICTURE**

Last of Us imitates life?

➤ Series' second season relevant to current events, can provide catharsis, says its stars

WHEN *The Last of Us* – the smash-hit series about a post-apocalyptic society ravaged by a mass fungal infection – arrived on our screens in 2023, the real world was emerging from a pandemic.

Its timely premise evidently struck a chord, as the video game adaptation's debut season drew a record-breaking 32 million US viewers per episode, according to HBO.

Now season two, which premieres this Sunday and hinges on themes of conflict and vengeance, will be equally relevant and prescient, said returning star Pedro Pascal.

Part of the show's strength is its ability "to see human relationships under crisis and in pain, and intelligently draw political allegory, societal allegory and base it off the world we are living in," said the actor, who plays lead character Joel. "Storytelling is cathartic in so many ways... I think there is a very healthy and sometimes sick pleasure in that kind of catharsis – in a safe space," he told a recent press conference.

In the first season, smuggler Joel is forced to

take teenage Ellie (Bella Ramsey) – seemingly the one human immune to the deadly cordyceps fungus – with him as he crosses the US seeking his brother.

Spoiler alert

Although fans of the original video games will know what to expect from season two, HBO is trying to keep plot details of the dark and gritty second instalment under wraps.

A recent trailer makes clear Joel and Ellie have come into conflict with each other, and a new character Abby (Kaitlyn Dever) is a soldier on a murderous rampage.

In a quirk of fortune, rising star Dever (*Booksmart*, *Dopesick*) was originally in talks to play Ellie when a film adaptation of *The Last of Us* was in development in the mid-2010s.

Though the film collapsed, she became a fan of the games and said getting cast as Abby – a main, playable character in video game *The Last of Us Part II* – for the TV series years later was "surreal".

"I was a fan of the game. It was a real

bonding moment for me and my dad playing it together," she reflected.

"And to have it come back around, what, 10-plus years later? It just felt right. Abby felt right."

Gabriel Luna, who returns as Joel's brother Tommy, agreed with Pascal that "there is a huge catharsis element" to watching the second season at a time when, in the real world, conflicts are raging and alliances are fracturing.

"The first season, we made a story about a pandemic, fearing that maybe there was a fatigue. But I think the experience that everyone had just gave them an entry point to what we were doing," he said.

He continued: "I think the second game... and the second season is about conflicts. Where do they start? And who started it?"

"Right now, all over the world, we are dealing with these conflicts... People are stuck in the wheel of vengeance. Can it be broken? Will it be broken? And that is where we are." – AFP

Kenny G to play in Sabah for first time



The artiste is beloved for his smooth jazz sound.

KENNY G fans in Sabah will have the opportunity to see the legendary saxophonist perform live on July 11 at 8pm at the Sabah International Convention Centre. This will be his first-ever appearance in East Malaysia. As part of his Timeless Legacy tour, the artiste will also be bringing his show to Resorts World Genting on July 13.

Globally celebrated for timeless classics such as *Songbird*, *The Moment*, *Going Home* and *Forever in Love*, Kenny G has enchanted millions with his signature smooth jazz sound. Concert attendees can expect a night filled with soulful melodies and romantic ballads. With over 75 million albums sold, Kenny G's latest release *Innocence* is further evidence of his enduring appeal.

Organised by Star Planet, tickets for Kenny G's performance in Kota Kinabalu will go on sale starting this Friday.

Original model of *E.T.* alien finds no home



The model offered for sale is one of three used by Spielberg for his 1982 film. – **AFP/PICTURE**

AN original model of *E.T.*, created for Steven Spielberg's beloved film *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*, did not find a buyer after being put up for auction, Sotheby's auction house in New York said.

The piece, a little over a metre high and which had been estimated to fetch between US\$600,000 (RM2.68 million) and US\$900,000, comes from the collection of Italian special effects artist Carlo Rambaldi.

The three-time Oscar winner – including one for *E.T.* – died in 2012 at the age of 86.

"Rambaldi's beloved *E.T.* model is an extraordinary piece of film history. While it did not find a buyer during today's auction, its significance remains undiminished," said Sotheby's vice chair Cassandra Hatton.

The model offered for sale is one of three used by Spielberg for his 1982 film.

In a statement before the auction, Hatton described the model as embodying "the artistry of an era before computer-generated imagery took hold, a nostalgic and iconic piece of Hollywood history as captivating as the stories themselves."

Sotheby's said a separate *E.T.* sketch made by Rambaldi had sold Thursday for over US\$53,000, well above its top-end estimate of US\$18,000.

In 2022, a metallic automaton representing *E.T.* and also used during the shooting of the successful film was sold for US\$2.56 million at an auction organised by the American house Julien's. – AFP

Springsteen to release 'lost albums' in June



Springsteen will embark on a tour next month. – **AFP/PICTURE**

BRUCE Springsteen said he will release a boxed set of new music this summer spanning 83 songs.

Tracks II: The Lost Albums is slated to drop June 27, comprising seven complete albums recorded between 1983 and 2018, The Boss said.

"*The Lost Albums* were full records, some of them even to the point of being mixed and not released," said Springsteen in a statement on his website.

"I have played this music to myself and often close friends for years now. I am glad you will get a chance to finally hear them. I hope you enjoy them."

The 75-year-old released a preview in the

form of the track *Rain in the River*, an electrified arena-rock anthem.

In a video clip accompanying the announcement, he said he took advantage of the pandemic to finish "everything I had in my vault."

Springsteen last released a studio album in 2022, a collection of covers of classics by the likes of the Four Tops and the Supremes entitled *Only the Strong Survive*.

His forthcoming albums will be released by Sony, which bought the rights to Springsteen's catalog in 2021 for a reported half billion dollars.

Next month, Springsteen and the E Street Band are due for a tour of Europe and the UK, set to begin May 14 in Manchester, England. – AFP



296 Others

Win 4D this week with Magnum 4D Barcode System, RM480.

Call : 012-2392775

322 Notices

IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYA AT SHAH ALAM (COMMERCIAL DIVISION) COMPANIES WINDING-UP NO. BA-28NCC-215-03/2025

In the Matter of Section 465 (1) (e) and 466 (1) (a) of the Companies Act, 2016.

And

In the Matter of West Consortium Haulage Sdn. Bhd. (Company No. 201610100959 (1189567-F))

Between

YONING AUTO (WESTPORT) SDN. BHD. (COMPANY NO. 201401002702 (1078776-X)) ... PETITIONER

And

WEST CONSORTIUM HAULAGE SDN. BHD. (COMPANY NO. 201610100959 (1189567-F)) ... RESPONDENT

ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION

NOTICE is hereby given that a Petition for Winding-Up of the abovesaid Company by the High Court was on the 24th March, 2025 presented by Yonning Auto (Westport) Sdn Bhd (Company No. 201401002702 (1078776-X)) and the said Petition is directed to be heard before the High Court sitting at Shah Alam at 9.30 o'clock in the morning at the 30TH JUNE, 2025 and any Creditor or Contributory of the said Company desiring to support or oppose the making of an Order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing by himself or his Counsel for that purpose and a copy of the Petition will be furnished to any Creditor or Contributory of the said Company requiring the same by the undersigned on payment of the regulated charge for the same

The Petitioner's address is at Lot E6387, No. 25, Lorong Jula 14/KS10, Tokoi Gong, 40000 Pelabuhan Klang, Selangor Darul Ehsan

The Petitioner's Solicitors is MESSRS HO DAN RAKAN RAKAN of Suite 9-18, 9th Floor, Wisma Zelan, No. 1, Jalan Taski Permatasari 2, Bandar Tun Razak, 56000 Cheras, Kuala Lumpur.

T
Messrs Ho Dan Rakan Rakan Solicitors For The Petitioner

Note:
Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition must serve on or send by post to the abovesaid Messrs Ho Dan Rakan Rakan notice in writing of his intention so to do. The Notice must state the name and address of the person, or, if a firm, the name and address of the firm and must be signed by the person or firm or his or their solicitors (if any) and must be served or, if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the abovesaid not later than twelve o'clock noon on the 28th June, 2025. Tel: 03-91732150
Email: horakan28@gmail.com
(Ref: HD4861-24/17M (WESTPORT)KLG (WCRSD) (8))

theSun WE ARE HIRING!

1) EXECUTIVE / SENIOR - HR & Admin
2) ASST MANAGER / MANAGER - HR & Admin

Job Description

- Maintain HR records, including employee files, salaries and benefits information.
- Handle employee attendance records, payroll and claims.
- Handle employee relations and resolve any workplace conflicts or issues.
- Provide HR support and guidance to managers and employees.
- Ensure compliance with all employment laws and regulations.
- Stay updated on changes in labor legislation and industry standards.
- Handle employee training and development programmes.
- Manage employee benefits programmes and ensure compliance with regulations.
- Stay updated on current industry trends and best practices in HR management.
- For Senior/Assistant Manager – with supervisor skills.
- Handle staff training and recruitment matters.
- Experience in payroll system would be advantageous.
- Handle General Admin and other HR duties.

Requirements

- Diploma/Bachelor's degree in Human Resources Management or related field.
- Executive: 1+ years of experience in HR & Admin or related field.
- Senior: 3+ years of experience in HR & Admin or related field.
- Asst Manager: 5+ years of experience in HR & Admin or related field.
- Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply for Assistant Executive post.
- Basic HR knowledge and proficiency in Microsoft Office.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

3) EXECUTIVE - Safety & Building Maintenance

Job Description

- Perform routine and preventive maintenance on factory & office building systems, including HVAC, electrical, plumbing and mechanical systems.
- Conduct regular inspections of the factory & office building to identify and address maintenance issues.
- Respond promptly to maintenance requests and ensure timely resolution.
- Maintain accurate records of maintenance activities, including work orders, inspections and repairs.
- Ensure all maintenance activities comply with relevant health, safety and environmental regulations.
- Coordinate with external contractors and vendors for specialised maintenance and repair works.
- Monitor and optimise energy usage to improve efficiency and reduce costs.
- Assist in preparation and management of maintenance budget.
- Assist in any ad-hoc operations and admin tasks assigned by Management from time to time.

Requirements

- Diploma/Degree in Building or Facilities Management, Safety & Health or related field.
- Additional certificate: Electrical Chaperman, preferably A4 or minimum A1 would be an added advantage.
- Minimum of one year of experience in Building Maintenance or Safety & Health.
- Adequate technical knowledge of building systems (HVAC, electrical, plumbing etc).
- Excellent problem-solving and troubleshooting skills.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work flex hours.
- Able to handle urgent and last-minute job request.

Send in your CV with your photo via email to: thesun.hr2@gmail.com (Closing Date: April 30, 2025)

322 Notices

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR VOLUNTARY WINDING UP OF LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP (Section 50(4)(a) of the Limited Liability Partnerships Act 2012)

Notice is hereby given that **KL CAR TYRE SERVICES PLT** (Registration No. : 202104002814 (LLP0029453-LGN)) will be making an application to the Registrar of Limited Liability Partnership for a declaration of dissolution pursuant to Section 50(2) of the Limited Liability Partnerships Act 2012 within seven (7) days after the publication of this notice. Any partner or creditor of the LLP desiring to object to the application may do so in writing to the Companies Commission of Malaysia within thirty (30) days from the date of this notice.

Teck Hua Heng Enterprise Sdn. Bhd. 199401033389 (319072-A)
- In Members' Voluntary Winding Up

NOTICE OF FINAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT pursuant to Section 459(2) of the Companies Act 2016, the Final Meeting of the above Company shall be held at 28A Jalan Serampang, Taman Pelangi, 80050 Johor Bahru on 9 May 2025 at 10:00 for the purpose of:

Having an account laid before the meeting showing the manner in which the Winding Up has been conducted and the property of the Company disposed of and of hearing any explanation by the Liquidator

Dated this 9 April 2025

Teoh Lye Huet, Liquidator

CALL TO PLACE CLASSIFIED ADS

MALACCA N.SEMBILAN MR. Rajah TEL: 012-628 2844 FAX: 06-764 2051	KLANG VALLEY PENANG KEDAH PERAK PERLIS PAHANG KELANTAN TERENGGANU MS. Shoba / MS. Baiqish TEL: 03-7784 8888 WHATSAPP: 018 2616 626	JOHOR BAHRU MS. Anne Lim TEL: 013-770 6999 FAX: 07-355 5549
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302 Jobs

theSun WE ARE HIRING!

1 MEDIA SALES - Specialist

Job Description

- Building and sustaining strong working relationship with advertising agencies and clients.
- New business development and business retention.
- Conceptualise, plan and execute creative and innovative marketing campaigns to enhance brand visibility and engagement.
- Create, develop and continuously improve marketing material, presentations and proposals that showcase our products/services effectively.

Requirements

- SPM level with at least two years of experience.
- Diploma or Bachelor's degree in business, marketing or other related fields.
- Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply, training will be provided.
- Good communication, presentation, problem-solving and organisational skills.
- Passionate in client servicing.
- Possess own transport and willing to travel.
- Able to start work immediately.

Office based in Petaling Jaya (Five-day week)

2 MEDIA SALES - Representative/Agent (Freelance)

Requirement

- Minimum one year sales experience in classified ad, print and digital advertising.
- Those without sales experience but with media advertising knowledge may also apply.
- Attractive commission package and incentives.
- Able to start immediately.
- Central, Northern, Southern, East Coast and Sabah/Sarawak.

Send in your CV with your photo via email to : thesun.hr2@gmail.com

322 Notices

PERSYTIHARAN JUJUAL DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI PULAU PINANG PERMOHONAN UNTUK PERLAKSANAAN NO: PA-38-198-02/2025

Dalam perkara mengenai Seksyen 256 dan 257 Kanun Tanah Negara, 1965

Dan

Dalam perkara mengenai Badan Perserahan No. 0796SC2010022639 (bertarikh 14/09/2010) ke atas semua bahagian tanah yang dipegangi di bawah FR 9554, Lot 9358, Mukim 13, Daerah Timur Laut, Pulau Pinang

Dan

Dalam perkara mengenai Atrian 83 Kaedah-Kaedah Mahkamah, 2012

ANTARA ...PLAINTIFF

DAN

Shashi Kala s/p Subramaniam (No. Kad Pengenalan : 700625065160) Wakil diri kepada Narta Prakash Subramaniam s/ Naryanasamyam (sama)(No. Kad Pengenalan: 830621075731) ...DEFENDAN

Menurut Perintah Mahkamah Tinggi Malaya di PULAU PETANI mengenai Perintah Juualan dan Perintah bertarikh 12 Julai 2018 dan 19 Mac 2025, adalah dengan ini dinyatakan bahawa Timbalan Pendaftar/Perorang Kanan Pendaftar Pasaal Operasi e-Lelong di Kuantan

AKAN MENJUAL SECARA LELONG AWAM

Pada Hari Khamis, 24 April 2025, Pada Jam 11:00 pagi,

SECARA ELEKTRONIK DI LAMAN WEB e-LELONG, PUSAT OPERASI e-LELONG, KOMPLEKS MAHKAMAH KUANTAN, PAHANG DARUL MAKMUR

NOTA: Bakal pembeli adalah diwajibkan agar membuat carian Hakmilik secara rasmi di Pejabat Tanah dan Memeriksa semua lunjungan, bebanan serta mengemal pasti dengan tepat hartanah tersebut sebelum Juualan lelongan dijalankan.

Sila layari https://lelong.hakmilik.com.my/bidderweb

BUTIR-BUTIR HAKMILIK:

No. Hakmilik:	PN 3054
No. Lot:	Lot 9358
No. Mukim / Daerah / Negeri:	13 / Timur Laut / Pulau Pinang
Pemegang:	Hakmilik Pajakan
No. Petak/No. Tingkat/No. Bangunan:	-
Keluasan Tanah:	4166.0000000000 kaki persegi
Pemilik Berdaftar Syarikat Nyata:	387.0000000000 meter persegi
Sekatan Kepentingan:	Subramaniam s/ Naryanasamyam
Kawasan Rizab:	-
Kawad:	-

LOKASI DAN PERHAL HARTAHAN:

Hartanah tersebut adalah A corner double-storey terraced house yang beramat pos di No. 2, Sokok Bukit Jambul 5, Mukim 13, 11900, Bayan Lepas, Pulau Pinang.

HARGA BAZAL:

Hartanah tersebut akan dijual atas "seperitama sedia ada" terlekat kepada satu harga riaz sebanyak RM 1,180,980.00 (RINGGIT MALAYSIA: SATU JUTA SATU RATUS LAPAT PULUH RIBU SEMBILAN RATUS LAPAT PULUH SAHALAN) dan kepada syarat-syarat jualan yang diumumkan. Pembida yang bernaik hendaklah menepuhkan 10% daripada harga riaz dalam bentuk Bank Draft di atas nama PUBLIC BANK BERHAD 1 HARI BERSAMA sebelum tarikh lelong awam. Saki barga bidaan hendaklah dibayar oleh pembida yang berjaya kepada PUBLIC BANK BERHAD dalam tempoh seratus dua puluh (120) hari dari tarikh jualan. Untuk butiran-butiran, sila berhubung dengan:-

Firma Guano: WONG-CHOOI & MOHD NOR
Alamat: NO. 27, 1ST & 2ND FLOOR, JALAN MAJU JAYA, PUSAT PERNIAGAAN MAJU JAYA, 14000, PG, MY
No. Telefon: 04-5338555
No. Fax: 04-5338555
No. Rujukan: WCHM(BM)PBB-HL/2023-015/SN(RS(D))

322 Notices

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016 AND IN THE MATTER OF SS FENG SHUI SDN. BHD. (Registration No.: 201801024098 / 1261118-M) (IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY WINDING-UP)

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 292(2) of the Companies Act, 2016 that the Special Resolution set out below was duly passed by members of the Company on 3rd April 2025.

1. THAT the company be wound-up voluntarily and that Mr. Lau Theng Chiam of No. 7079, Tingkat 1, Jalan Kampung Gajah, 12200 Butterworth, Pulau Pinang be appointed as Liquidator to act for the purpose of the aforesaid winding-up.

TEOH GUAN HONG
Director
Dated this 9th April 2025

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016 AND IN THE MATTER OF SS FENG SHUI SDN. BHD. (Registration No.: 201801024098 / 1261118-M) (IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY WINDING-UP)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of the abovesaid company which is being wound up voluntarily are required or on before and addresses with particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any) to the undersigned, the Liquidator of the said Company, and if so required in writing from the said, are by their solicitors or personally to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefits of any distribution made such before debts are proven.

Dated this 9th April 2025

LAU THENG CHIM
Liquidator
No. 7079, Tingkat 1, Jalan Kampung Gajah, 12200 Butterworth, Pulau Pinang.
(Ruj. Kami: ANPJ/CW/1763/S3/2024)

322 Notices

PYRO INDUSTRIAL REFRACTORIES SDN. BHD. Registration No. 200801024587 (825911-M) (In Members' Voluntary Winding-Up) (Incorporated in Malaysia)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Final General Meeting of the Company will be held at the office of the Liquidator, Suite D23, 2nd Floor, Plaza Pekeliling, No. 2, Jalan Tun Razak, 50400 Kuala Lumpur on Friday, 9th day of May 2025 at 11.30 a.m. for the following purposes:-

(1) To receive accounts from the Liquidator showing how the winding-up has been conducted and to receive any explanations thereon.

(2) To resolve under Section 518 of the Companies Act 2016 that after the expiration of three months from the date of the Final Meeting, the books and papers of the company may be destroyed.

9th April 2025
Kuala Lumpur

Yap Siew Cheng
Liquidator

322 Notices

DALAM MAHKAMAH MAJISTRET DI BALK PULAU PINANG DALAM NEGERI PULAU PINANG NO-A72NCC-164-11/2024

ANTARA

TENAGA NASIONAL BERHAD (NO. SYARIKAT: 199001009294) ...PLAINTIFF

DAN

CHANG CHON FAH (NO. K/P: 720426-07-5057) ...DEFENDAN

NOTIS IKLAN

Kepada: CHANG CHON FAH (NO. K/P: 720426-07-5057) (No. 6-03-12B, Sri Aman, Persiaran Paya Terubung 1, 11900 Bayan Lepas, Pulau Pinang.

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa suatu Writ Saman dan Pemyataan Tuntutan bertarikh 18-11-2024 telah dikeluarkan terhadap kamu di Mahkamah Majistret di Balik Pulau, Pulau Pinang oleh Tahanan Ke Atas Jumlah Tertudung dan mempunyai alamat permyataan di Suite 2-05, Tingkat 2, Bangunan Wisma Pantai, Jalan Kg. Gajah, 12200 Butterworth, Pulau Pinang untuk jumlah sebanyak RM 8,950.70 ("Jumlah Terbutang") dan faedah pada kadar 5% setahun ke atas Jumlah Tertudung dan tarikh pengakhiran sehingga tarikh penyelesaian penuh berserta kos litigasi dan Mahkamah telah memerintahkan bahawa Writ Saman dan Pemyataan Tuntutan bertarikh 18-11-2024 dan Perintah Penyampaian Ganti yang bertarikh 11-03-2025 disampaikan kepada kamu melalui penyampaian ganti iaitu dengan pengampunan di papan kenyataan Mahkamah Majistret di Balik Pulau, Pulau Pinang dan di suatu tempoh yang nyata dan jelas di alamat terlekat kamu yang diketahui, iaitu di No. 6-03-12B, Sri Aman, Persiaran Paya Terubung 1, 11900 Bayan Lepas, Pulau Pinang serta melalui pengakhiran di akhbar tempatan dan cara penyampaian Writ Saman dan Pemyataan Tuntutan berserta Perintah Penyampaian Ganti tersebut diangapakan telah disampaikan dengan sempurna dan memadai kepada kamu dalam tempoh masa empat belas (14) hari selepas tarikh penampunan dan/atau tarikh pengesahan dan/atau tarikh pengakhiran yang mana lebih lewat.

Bertarikh pada 7 April 2025.

ANPJ

Tetuan Azmi Naziah Jui & Prabha, Peguamcara Plaintiff

NOTIS IKLAN ini telah dikeluarkan oleh Tetuan Azmi Naziah Jui & Prabha, Peguamcara bagi pihak Plaintiff yang berlamat di Suite 2-05, Tingkat 2, Bangunan Wisma Pantai, Jalan Kg. Gajah, 12200 Butterworth, Pulau Pinang (Ruj. Kami: ANPJ/CW/1763/S3/2024)

SHORTS

Langer ready for emotional farewell

AS Bernhard Langer gets ready to make his final Masters start this week the German could not help but take time to reflect on his journey from humble beginnings to becoming twice champion at Augusta National Golf Club.

The 67-year-old Langer will make his 41st Masters start tomorrow, a feat he never imagined in his wildest childhood dreams, especially considering he did not even know about the tournament at the time.

"I don't recall the exact day or year when I heard about the Masters Tournament, but it was certainly not easy," Langer told a press conference yesterday.

"We didn't even have a television until I was about 12 years old. My dad couldn't afford one. Then it only had three channels. I'm sure the Masters wasn't on one of those three channels. "Golf was nothing in Germany," said Langer.

Although Langer is at peace with his decision to call time on his Masters career, he admitted that no amount of preparation will make his last walk up the 18th fairway any less emotional.

"If it doesn't hit me earlier on, it will definitely hit me on 18, I know that," said Langer. "Hopefully, I can control myself until the 18th, but there's no guarantees."

Poor weather stops play

THE first practice round for this week's Masters was cancelled yesterday due to bad weather after tournament officials had earlier suspended it.

Patrons were instructed to leave Augusta National at 11.25am local time due to rain and the threat of thunderstorms, and officials later said the course would not reopen due to the forecast.

"We are disappointed our patrons could not fully enjoy today's practice round, but the safety of everyone at Augusta National is our highest priority and was the determining factor in the decision to cancel," Augusta Chairman Fred Ridley said.

"We look forward to welcoming back our Monday patrons next year, as well as celebrating a wonderful 89th Masters Tournament ahead of us this week."

Vijay withdraws after 31 straight starts

FORMER champion Vijay Singh has withdrawn from the Masters with an injury, ending a streak of 31 straight starts at the season's first major.

Vijay, 62, the 2000 Masters champion and three-time major winner, will not be replaced, dropping the field to 95. The nature of Vijay's injury was not disclosed by officials at Augusta National Golf Club on Monday.

Vijay defeated Ernie Els by three shots to claim the green jacket in 2000. Tiger Woods won the other three majors that year.

In 31 career starts at Augusta National, Vijay has six top-10s, 11 top-25s and 21 made cuts. Vijay also won the PGA Championship in 1998 and 2004.

Schauffele likes chance of third green jacket



XANDER SCHAUFFELE says it's nice to lurk under the radar at the 89th Masters after struggling with a rib injury – even while he chases a third victory in four majors.

The 31-year-old American, who took his first major titles at last year's PGA Championship and British Open, says he felt underestimated before winning majors.

"It's sort of how people would talk about me when I was playing well," Schauffele said.

"I haven't been in great form but the only thing that matters is that I think I can win and my team thinks I can win, and everyone else can just talk about whatever they talk about."

After an early season injury layoff and a battle to improve, Schauffele said he feels he can capture a green jacket this week at Augusta National.

"I don't think I would be here if I didn't," Schauffele

said.

"I know what I'm capable of when I'm feeling good, when I'm not thinking of anything but getting the ball in the hole. It has been a process to get back to that."

"I don't have a ton of reps doing it, but there's a lot for me to draw back on, previous accomplishments to sort of let that confidence grow."

Tokyo Olympic champion Schauffele made a breakthrough last May after 12 major top-10 finishes without a victory by winning the PGA at Valhalla and added to his major trophy haul at Royal Troon last July.

"Last year I was firing on close to all cylinders at some points," said Schauffele. "So there needs to be a lot of self-belief that I can get back to that spot and that's kind of where I'm laying my head to rest."

Third-ranked Schauffele feels more confident at

formidable Augusta National playing for the first time as a major winner.

"That goes for every major I play in now," he said. "If I can get myself in a good spot – I'm going to fail at times – but man, I think I can deal with it a lot better than I used to be able to before winning."

Schauffele arrived at Magnolia Lane last year without a major win. Now he's halfway to a career Grand Slam.

"Believe it or not, it was always a thought before I won any of them," he said of taking all four majors.

"It's a lot cooler to be a lot closer to that dream of mine at 31 versus 35 or 36 not having won one." – AFP

Chasing history at Masters

Scheffler, McIlroy in fine form to take famed Augusta



Scottie Scheffler tees off for a practice round during the Drive, Chip and Putt Championship at Augusta National Golf Club. – AFP/PIC

TOP-RANKED defending champion Scottie Scheffler and world No. 2 Rory McIlroy will take a swing at golf history in this week's 89th Masters.

The superstars are most fancied by oddsmakers when the year's first major golf showdown starts tomorrow at Augusta National.

Scheffler, the 2022 and 2024 Masters green jacket winner, seeks his third major title and could become just the fourth back-to-back Masters champion after Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods and Nick Faldo. Only Nicklaus has won three of four as Scheffler can.

"I like the way my swing has started to feel," Scheffler said. "Definitely some positive momentum."

Scheffler, whose nine wins last year also included Paris Olympic gold, missed the start of the season after injuring his hand on Christmas, but says he has recovered from the setback.

"Improving in the ball-striking," Scheffler said. "My ball striking has not been as good as it has been the past couple years. All of that is getting the body back to where it has been."

"A lot of it is not being able to get the reps. I feel like I'm getting sharper and sharper."

Scheffler, who played a practice round Sunday with his mother at Augusta National, was a runner-up at the Houston Open in March, with his two lowest rounds of the season, a 62 and a 63.

McIlroy, a four-time major winner seeking his first major triumph since 2014, can complete a career Grand Slam with a Masters victory.

The 35-year-old from Northern Ireland has finished in the top-10 six times in his 10 tries to finish a slam at Augusta National, including a runner-up effort in 2022.

But this year, McIlroy arrives at Magnolia Lane off victories at Pebble Beach in February and The Players Championship in March – the

first year he has come to the Masters with two titles already won.

"Going forward, it's just about feeling as comfortable as I can be with the things I've been working on, which is sort of iron play, wedges," McIlroy said. "Obviously short game is really important around Augusta."

McIlroy, who last month joined Woods as players with US\$100 million (RM450m) in career PGA Tour winnings, has been proud of his ability to handle shotmaking in blustery conditions such as those found among the Georgia pines.

"I think just how I manage my game, how I manage my misses. My short game has been very good and I've been able to scramble well when I've needed to," McIlroy said.

"And my ability to sort of hit little knockdown shots... my ability to hit those little three-quarter shots is definitely better than it has been."

The PGA-LIV split continues, with the majors the only place where the best from each series compete.

Among 12 LIV Golf players in the Masters is Chile's Joaquin Niemann, a special invitee who won LIV titles at Adelaide in February and Singapore in March as he chases a first major win.

"I know it's going to come. I know I'm going to win a major," Niemann said. "I know it's going to happen. Maybe not at the Masters... maybe yes. I have no idea. I just know it's going to happen."

Other LIV players at Augusta include reigning US Open champion Bryson DeChambeau, five-time major winner Brooks Koepka and past Masters winners Jon Rahm and Sergio Garcia of Spain, South African Charl Schwartzel and Americans Dustin Johnson, Phil Mickelson, Patrick Reed and Bubba Watson. – AFP

Tai 'honoured' to be first Singaporean to play in major

HIROSHI TAI will make history as the first Singaporean golfer to play in the Masters this week, but the 23-year-old can count on a strong Georgia connection to buoy his bid for low amateur honours at Augusta National.

Tai secured his place in the field for the year's first major almost a year ago, when he won the NCAA collegiate championship representing Georgia Tech.

It's the alma mater of US golf great and Augusta National co-founder Bobby Jones – and creates a link to this day between the club and Georgia Tech's Yellow Jackets teams.

But Tai said yesterday that the drive down Magnolia Lane felt "a little different" when he was arriving to prepare for his first Masters.

"Obviously being at Georgia Tech and there's a lot of history involved with the Masters with Bobby Jones being a founder and obviously he played at

Georgia Tech, graduated from there," Tai said.

"So there's a lot of history at Georgia Tech and connected with the Masters. It has been a really cool experience."

"And driving down Magnolia Lane, not even today, just any other day, would be amazing," he said. "Definitely enjoying it a lot."

But Tai, who got his first taste of major championship golf when he played the US Open at Pinehurst last year, is also boosted by strong support back home, and he's proud to be the first from his country to play the Masters.

"I think it means a lot to me because I'm obviously proud of where I'm from and have a lot of friends and family that live there," he said.

"My parents still live there. It has been a really cool experience so far, and I've really enjoyed everything about it. I'm really honored to be here,

as well."

Born in Hong Kong to a Singaporean father and a Japanese mother, Tai was introduced to golf in Singapore when he was four and honed his game at Windermere Prep school in Florida.

His golfing aspirations had to wait while he completed his Singapore military service, but he said his Georgia Tech experience has accelerated his progress.

"I think playing college golf, especially at the Division I level, you're playing with some of the best amateurs in the world," he said.

"A lot of them have had success on PGA Tour events as amateurs and as college players, so I think you're really playing against some of the best players you can find at that level, and it has really helped me grow as a person and as a player in the last couple of years." – AFP



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Saints sack manager Juric after record-quietest relegation

BY FLO CLIFFORD

SOUTHAMPTON have sacked manager Ivan Juric after the club suffered the quickest relegation of any Premier League side on record.

Saints were relegated with seven games to go after a 3-1 defeat at Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday, with the 49-year-old losing 13 of his 16 games in charge of the side and winning just two.

No top-flight side has been relegated with more games remaining in a season.

Juric's win percentage of 12.5% was among

the worst of all Southampton's managers and the worst of all the side's permanent managers, with several caretakers on 0%.

A statement by Southampton read: "Ivan came to Southampton at a tough time and was tasked with trying to improve a squad in a difficult situation.

"Unfortunately, we haven't seen performances progress the way we had hoped, but we would like to thank Ivan and his staff for their honesty and hard work as they fought against the odds to try and keep us up.

"Despite the challenges that relegation will bring, our goal is to restore a sense of pride for

them in their team and club once again."

It is the second time Saints have sacked their manager this season after Russell Martin, who oversaw promotion from the Championship last season via the playoffs, was given the axe in December having secured only five points.

A defeat to Spurs was also the catalyst for Martin's exit, after Southampton lost 5-0 to Ange Postecoglou's side at St. Mary's. Juric was appointed on an 18-month contract after Martin's dismissal.

Saints' two League wins so far came against Everton in November and at fellow strugglers

Ipswich in February.

Even if they surpass Derby's points total, Southampton hold the top flight's worst defensive record and have scored the fewest goals in the division.

Juric spent the majority of his managerial career in Italy before taking the job at Southampton, most recently with Roma, where he lasted only 53 days, getting the sack after 12 matches.

Simon Rusk, who briefly served as caretaker before Juric's appointment, is to take charge as interim manager with Adam Lallana acting as his assistant. – The Independent

SHORTS

Napoli give Inter reprieve

NAPOLI let Serie A leaders Inter Milan off the hook yesterday after being held to a 1-1 draw at Champion League chasers Bologna, who missed the chance to move into third place.

Antonio Conte's team looked to be moving one point behind champions Inter when Andre-Frank Zambo Anguissa opened the scoring in the 18th minute at the Stadio Renato Dall'Ara.

Anguissa's goal came in a fine first half from Napoli but Bologna finished stronger and Dan Ndoye gave the hosts a deserved point when he backheeled Jens Odgaard's low cross in off the crossbar in the 64th minute.

And Napoli had Simone Scuffet, in for ill first-choice goalkeeper Alex Meret, to thank when he brilliantly palmed away Emil Holm's powerful header in the final minute before Santiago Castro failed to react on the rebound.

"That was a chance to get all these points, it would have given us the reward for our fabulous second half," said Bologna coach Vincenzo Italiano.

"We kept them in their own half, created plenty of promising situations. We'll take the point but I'm very happy with the second half which was brilliant from my players."

Second-placed Napoli stay three points behind Inter who had given their rivals an opening by throwing away a two-goal half-time lead in their 2-2 draw at Parma on Saturday.

Van Dijk reveals 'progress' in contract talks

LIVERPOOL captain Virgil van Dijk has said "progress" has been made in talks over a much-discussed new deal to keep him at Anfield.

The 33-year-old Dutch international, along with Liverpool teammates Mohamed Salah and Trent Alexander-Arnold, is out of contract at the end of this season.

Van Dijk, asked after Sunday's 3-2 Premier League defeat at Fulham if there had been any progress in the discussions, told reporters: "There is progress, yeah."

Questioned on what that meant exactly, he added: "Listen, these are internal discussions and we'll see.

"I love the club, I love the fans and they were there for us again (at Fulham). We wanted to reward them, but I ask them to be there again on Sunday and make the stadium an amazing venue like always for us."

The futures of key trio Van Dijk, Salah and Alexander-Arnold have become major talking points in recent weeks. Van Dijk, however, said his sole focus was on winning the league.

"That's definitely the mentality in our group, that the job is not done and now we just have to recover from this physically and mentally and put our minds on West Ham at home," he said.

Rashford targets PSG hat-trick

... as Villa head to Paris in buoyant mood

MARCUS RASHFORD returns to Paris Saint-Germain with Aston Villa tomorrow (3am Malaysian time) seeking a hat-trick of wins at the home of the French champions while Marco Asensio can hurt his parent club.

The two players have impressed since signing on loan for Unai Emery's men in the winter transfer window, scoring a combined 11 goals in all competitions.

Villa head to Paris in buoyant mood on the back of seven straight wins in all competitions – they are sixth in the Premier League and face Crystal Palace in the FA Cup semifinals later this month.

Rashford will have a spring in his step after twice playing a pivotal role in securing victories for boyhood club Manchester United at PSG's Parc des Princes stadium.

In 2019, in a Champions League last-16 second-leg meeting, he scored a stoppage-time penalty, ensuring United progressed on away goals.

Two seasons later, in the group stages of the competition, Rashford again struck late to seal all three points in a 2-1 success.

This time the England winger, who has previously been linked with a move to PSG, will be wearing a different kit after leaving Trafford under a cloud.

There is still uncertainty over whether the 27-year-old will remain at Villa Park next season but for now he has his sights set on winning the Champions League with his new club – something he never managed at United.

"He's recovering confidence himself playing football, being focused only on football, being with his teammates comfortable as well, identifying and understanding our style, our demands," said Emery. "Everything with him is progressively getting better."

Asensio, a three-time Champions

League winner with Real Madrid, has been a revelation at Villa Park, scoring

eight goals in 11 appearances, including three at the last-16 stage as Villa defeated Club Brugge 6-1 on aggregate.

The 29-year-old Spaniard has already scored more goals under compatriot Emery in two months than he managed in the whole of his spell with PSG, whom he joined in 2023.

Asensio can play because Uefa's rules state that clubs cannot apply "any influence whatsoever over the players that another club may (or may not) field in a match."

Villa midfielder Amadou Onana said the two loan signings had made a major impact at the Birmingham club.

"Both of them are doing really well," he told Uefa's YouTube channel *Off Pitch*. "You could see straight away when they came in, the direct impact."

"Both of them played at the highest possible level and even for us young players, it's inspiring training and learning from them on a daily basis."

Emery, who has won the second-tier Europa League four times during his managerial career, will be desperate to beat former employers PSG, who beat Liverpool in the last 16 and have just clinched the Ligue 1 title.

Onana believes 1982 European champions Villa, who last played in the continent's top club competition the following season, can reach the semifinals but knows it will be tough against an impressive PSG team.

"Are we dreaming? Yes and no because I think we have the quality as a team to be where we are but obviously, we have got to be realistic," he said.

"PSG is, for me, one of the contenders for this Champions League so it is definitely going to be hard."

– AFP



Marcus Rashford

De Jong revival helping Barca dream

BARCELONA'S improvement under Hansi Flick helped Frenkie de Jong return to form and in return the Dutchman's presence has allowed his club to aspire to new heights this season.

The Catalan giants are in contention for a possible quadruple and host Borussia Dortmund in a Champions League quarterfinal first leg tomorrow (3am).

Since De Jong has reestablished himself, Barcelona have stepped up a gear, battling their way back to the top of La Liga as well as sailing onwards in Europe.

They last won the Champions League in 2015 and after a catalogue of humiliations find themselves back among the favourites to lift the trophy.

Last season they reached the quarterfinals for the first time since 2020, and this year are favourites to progress to the final four.

De Jong has formed a stylish tandem at the heart of Barcelona's midfield with Pedri Gonzalez.

While neither player is at their best when burdened with defensive responsibilities, together they do enough to help Barca survive at the back while flourishing offensively.

"Playing with a player like Pedri makes life easier," said De Jong last week.

Flick hailed the duo after they helped Barca reach the Copa del Rey final with a win away at Atletico Madrid.

"Frenkie and Pedri were unbelievable, really brave with the ball, keeping the possession," enthused their coach.

It has been a long road back for De Jong, who until the turn of the year was behind Marc Casado in the pecking order.

Flick started the season with youngster Marc Bernal at the base of midfield but after he

suffered a long-term injury, relied on Casado.

De Jong was injured in April 2024 and only returned to fitness in October and for a while Flick used him sparingly.

"He must deal with this situation, he must regain his confidence," Flick warned in November.

As Barcelona's form slumped towards the end of last year, he started using De Jong ahead of Casado and it quickly paid dividends.

The Catalans are unbeaten in 22 matches in 2025, with De Jong only participating in one of Barca's six defeats this season.

"Casa hasn't done anything wrong... Frenkie is doing really well," explained Flick.

"I spoke with Frenkie the first day here. He had a huge injury, came back step by step, day by day and he's getting better."

"And now I think also you can see how good he is, how good he is for the team." – AFP

RESULTS & STANDINGS

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE: Leicester 0 Newcastle 3 (Murphy 2, 11, Barnes 34).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	31	22	7	2	72	30	73
Arsenal	31	17	11	3	56	26	62
Nottm Forest	31	17	6	8	51	37	57
Chelsea	31	15	8	8	54	37	53
Newcastle	30	16	5	9	52	39	53
Man City	31	15	7	9	57	40	52
Aston Villa	31	14	9	8	46	46	51
Fulham	31	13	9	9	47	42	48
Brighton	31	12	11	8	49	47	47
Bournemouth	31	12	9	10	51	40	45
Crystal Palace	30	11	10	9	39	35	43
Brentford	31	12	6	13	51	47	42
Man Utd	31	10	8	13	37	41	38
Tottenham	31	11	4	16	58	45	37
Everton	31	7	14	10	33	38	35
West Ham	31	9	8	14	35	52	35
Wolves	31	9	5	17	43	59	32
Ipswich	31	4	8	19	31	65	20
Leicester	31	4	5	22	25	70	17
Southampton	31	2	4	25	23	74	10

LA LIGA: Leganes 1 (Raba 87) Osasuna 1 (Herrando 49).

TOP 6	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	30	21	4	5	83	29	67
Real Madrid	30	19	6	5	63	31	63
Atletico	30	17	9	4	49	24	60
A. Bilbao	30	14	12	4	46	24	54
Villarreal	29	13	9	7	51	39	48b
Real Betis	30	13	9	8	41	37	48

SERIE A: Bologna 1 (Ndoye 64) Napoli 1 (Anguissa 18).

TOP 6	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter Milan	31	20	8	3	69	30	68
Napoli	31	19	8	4	48	25	65
Atalanta	31	17	7	7	63	30	58
Bologna	31	15	12	4	51	35	57
Juventus	31	14	14	3	47	29	56
Lazio	31	16	7	8	52	42	55

RELEGATED

'Athletics coaches to be announced soon'

THE new lineup of coaches for the national athletics squad will be announced soon, said Malaysia Athletics (MA) general manager Nurhayati Karim.

She said a list of names has been submitted to the National Sports Council (NSC) and MA is waiting for the green light from the NSC.

"The appointment of coaches for the athletics squad is now in the last phase. We have sent all information to the NSC.

"The coaches are for all the disciplines, including sprint, throws and jumps. We are now waiting for the feedback from the NSC and we should have an answer soon," she told a media conference in Shah Alam yesterday.

The media previously reported about the vacancy in the coaching lineup of the national athletics squad, particularly for sprints after Mohd Poad Md Kassim's contract was not renewed at the end of last year.

The MA also announced that the German sprint squad will hold a four-week centralised training in Malaysia in preparation for the May 10-11 World Athletics Relay in Guangzhou, China.

Joerg Teichmann, who is helping to coordinate the Germans' training stint here, said a 47-man squad, including athletes, coaches and doctors, will arrive in Malaysia tomorrow.

"This training camp is a milestone facilitated through a long-standing personal relationship with the German Athletics Association and strong ties to Malaysian Athletics," Teichmann said.

"This collaboration is built on trust, shared values and a mutual desire to elevate sports performance both technically and culturally." - Bernama

Date with the Devils

Manchester United to take on Asean All-Stars in Bukit Jalil

MANCHESTER UNITED fans in Malaysia, rejoice!

The 13-time English Premier League champions said in a statement today that they will return to Malaysia for the first time in 16 years for a post-season tour next month.

Three-time European champions United are slated to take on Asean All-Stars on May 28 at the National Stadium in Bukit Jalil.

The Red Devils will then travel to Hong Kong to play against the Hong Kong national team at the Hong Kong Stadium on May 30.

The club said the two-match visit, presented by Snapdragon and arranged by ProEvents, marks the first post-season tour in the modern era of the club, and a return to Asia following a 4-0 victory over Liverpool in Bangkok in July 2022.

"The club last visited Kuala Lumpur in 2009 and Hong Kong in 2013, but the bond between United and the club's millions of loyal fans across

Asia remains as strong as ever," the club said.

"With the men's team confirmed to take part in the Premier League Summer Series in the United States of America ahead of the 2025/26 campaign, the fixtures in May provide a unique opportunity for the players and staff to connect directly with fans in Asia, and for the club to activate with its valued commercial partners in the region."

Meanwhile, United chief executive officer Omar Berrada said they are delighted to deliver a schedule that provides their fans in Asia, Scandinavia and the United States the opportunity to connect with the club and watch the men's first team play live in local settings.

"Importantly, our fixtures drive significant additional revenue which helps make the club stronger, allowing us to keep investing in success

on the pitch," Omar said.

"They also create unique opportunities for us to collaborate with our valued commercial partners, and to deepen relationships with our fans in regions such as Asia and the US."

After the Asia tour, United will face Leeds United in Stockholm on July 19

and will head to the US as part of the Premier League's Summer Series against West Ham United (July 26), Bournemouth (July 30) and Everton (Aug 3).

The Red Devils, who have won the English top-flight title a record 20 times, are currently in 13th spot in the English Premier League standings with 38 points from 10 wins, eight draws and 13 defeats to trail leaders and arch-rivals Liverpool by a massive 35 points. - Bernama



Grass not always greener on other side: Yeoh

YOUTH and Sports Minister Hannah Yeoh (pic) has reminded national shuttlers to be wary of the pitfalls of turning professional.

She said that not everyone who chooses to go professional enjoys strong infrastructure support from their sponsors.

"Sometimes, these sponsorships are shortcuts and look lucrative but they do not necessarily last. When a shuttler's ranking drops, they (the sponsors) will drop the shuttler and he or she will not know where to seek help," Yeoh told reporters after the ceremony to present incentives to the pupils of Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan (Tamil) Segambut by the Jets Sports Club in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

"I know that it is difficult for professional athletes to look for sponsors and they have to strive to look for funds

"Not all professional athletes can be like (men's singles shuttler) Lee Zii Jia. That's why if someone turns professional, don't just follow blindly," she said.

Zii Jia, who left the Badminton Association of Malaysia (BAM) in 2022, won the men's singles title at the 2022 Asia Badminton Championships and clinched bronze at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

National men's doubles pair Goh Sze Fei-Nur Izzuddin Rumsani, who left BAM last August, have also achieved impressive results on the international stage, having won four titles to be

currently ranked second in the world.

Speculation has been rife that top national women's doubles pair Pearly Tan and M. Thinaah, whose contract with BAM ended in January and who have yet to sign a new contract, are planning to leave the national governing body.

Yeoh also reminded sponsors, including corporate companies, to fulfill their promises to shuttlers who succeed in the tournaments they compete in.

She also urged national professional shuttlers to make a small contribution from rewards, including from the National Sports Incentives Scheme (Shakam) for the development of young talents in the country.

Meanwhile, Yeoh announced the inclusion of national lawn bowlers Nor Farah Ain

Abdullah and Izzat Shameer Dzulkeple into the Podium Programme.

Nor Farah Ain created a sensation when she won the women's singles gold medal at the 2024 World Indoor Bowls Championships in Guernsey, Channel Islands, in April last year.

The 24-year-old also helped the national squad win bronze in the mixed pairs event with Izzat Shameer Dzulkeple, who also contributed a silver medal in the men's singles event at the same tournament.

Nor Farah Ain is currently ranked No. 1 in the world while Izzat Shameer is ranked fifth.

Yeoh said the inclusion of Nor Farah Ain and Izzat Shamer would allow them to participate in more international-level tournaments and help maintain their world ranking.

She said that 608 athletes are currently placed in the Podium Programme, comprising 357 men and 251 women from 20 sports. - Bernama



SHORTS

United way better than Lyon: Onana

ANDRE ONANA does not expect Manchester United's make-or-break Europa League quarterfinal to be easy but has confidently claimed Ruben



Amorim's side are "way better" than Lyon.

The Europa League offers their only route to silverware and continental qualification, with United knowing glory in next month's Bilbao finale will secure a Champions League spot on top of the trophy.

Amorim's men still have a way to go to make it to San Mames and are currently preparing for Friday's (3am Malaysian time) quarterfinal first leg away to Lyon, where goalkeeper Onana heads with focus and no little confidence.

Put to him it is a massive match and United's season rests on the Europa League, he said: "100%. We all know the importance of this game, so we will go there with a winning mentality.

"It's not our best season but we still have something big to win, so we will go for it.

"It's (Lyon) a very good team, we know some of them, but I don't think we have to focus about them. It's more about us, what we're going to do.

"I think we are better than them, we just have to go there and show who we are.

"If we go there with a winning mentality and

we are focused, we stay compact, together and we follow the game plan, we will be winning the game.

"Of course, it's not going to be easy, but I think we are way better than them."

Grealish 'slapped in face' by fan after derby stalemate

A man has been charged with assault after allegedly slapping Manchester City forward Jack Grealish at the end of the Manchester derby at Old Trafford on Monday.

Greater Manchester Police confirmed a 20-year-old man will appear in court following an incident relating to the 0-0 draw between Manchester United and rivals Man City.

England international Grealish came on as a second-half substitute, with the Daily Mail reporting that he was "slapped in the face" by a United fan as he made his way off the pitch.

Greater Manchester Police subsequently opened an investigation and confirmed that a man will appear at Manchester Magistrates Court on July 14 July charged with assault. Manchester City declined to comment.

The incident comes after Phil Foden was subjected to derogatory chants about his mother at Old Trafford, with manager Pep Guardiola calling them "shameful".



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SCAN ME



'We look united'

Jacob Murphy scores Newcastle United's second goal against Leicester City. - REUTERS/PIC

Howe happy to see Newcastle back 'where they need to be' after Leicester demolition

NEWCASTLE boss Eddie Howe feels his side "look united" after they boosted their hopes of securing a Champions League place with a comfortable 3-0 victory at relegation-haunted Leicester.

The Foxes were low on confidence thanks to seven straight defeats heading into the contest and Newcastle jumped all over their hosts with two goals in 11 minutes courtesy of Jacob Murphy, his second coming after Fabian Schar almost scored from his own half with an audacious effort which bounced off the bar.

Former Leicester man Harvey Barnes twisted the knife on his old club with the third goal of the evening but did not celebrate against the fans who used to sing his name.

Newcastle moved level on points with fourth-placed Chelsea with a game in hand and are eyeing up a return to Europe's top table.

Howe said: "It was a great start to the game for us. It was a brilliant first goal, brilliant execution of how we want to play."

"We stuck to our task. We were professional and it was really good to get a clean sheet and three goals."

"That was a big question mark against us, how would we respond to the high (of their Carabao Cup win)."

"The players have responded magnificently. It's a tick in the box for our psychology."

"Early season there were games where we were frustrated by our output, by the effort. It was uncharacteristic. That had never happened before in my time here. But now we're in a good place."

"We look united. We have a purpose and we're trying to get there. We're where we need to be."

"Confidence is high at the moment, but there are areas we need to improve."

The Magpies now face the prospect of three games in six days, starting on Sunday (11.30pm Malaysian time) with a home fixture against Manchester United.

Howe thinks it will be a challenging week with a "stretched" squad.

He added: "We've got three tough

games and we've got to reset and upturn our performances again."

"The players are experienced. They've been through a lot in their careers. Three games in six days is going to be a big test for us."

"We're going to need everybody. The squad is still stretched. We tried to manage the squad today with the game in a good position."

Ruud van Nistelrooy failed to confirm whether he remains committed to Leicester after he guided the club to their worst losing run in history.

The Foxes boss said: "It's very disappointing and if I speak for myself, with the intent to bring the club forward, so far it didn't work and tried different things and structures without results."

"It's clear what the most important thing, it's this club and what's best for this club and that's also what we need to discuss."

"I think for now it's been such a bad run of games, not getting results and not scoring goals for me it's time to recover from this first before I can say anything else."

Van Nistelrooy's relegation-bound side have not found the back of the net at the King Power Stadium since Dec 8 - a 2-2 draw with Brighton.

"Nothing surprises me with this group and this manager and this football club at the minute," ex-Foxes winger Matt Piper told BBC Radio Leicester.

"The anger for me is done, they are sucking the life out of me. This is as bad as it's ever been and we are a club that has dropped down to League One football."

"This season they are not good enough, there is no fight, there is no determination, there is no want to wear the shirt, there is no confidence," Piper said.

"Then there is a manager that goes missing in the dugout. There are major things wrong at this football club and it's been like this for some time."

"It's just not good enough. There are so many things wrong and I really fear for this football club in the coming years." - The Independent /Agencies

Team comes first: Stella

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Chasing history at Masters

Story on page 29

Rashford targets PSG hat-trick

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